



# Undercroft Bridge Club

## Newsletter July 2025

Western Australian Women's Team winning the National Title.



Congratulations to Gwyneira Brahma, Stella Steer, Pauline Collett, Cathy Hood, Leonie Fuller, Marnie Leybourne and Allison Stralow (NPC) on their outstanding result this year's ANC.

### BAWA 2025 Master in Teams of Three



2<sup>nd</sup> Sharon Dyball, Greg McKie, Tad Bieganski (Master) and Bernie Plath

## President's Report

From Bernie Plath

The club continues to maintain a strong membership and strong financials. The focus remains to provide a welcoming, enjoyable and inclusive environment for the playing of bridge for all skill levels.

The club has installed a mailbox at the front of the building. All postal mail needs to be addressed:

Undercroft Bridge Club;

20 Ron Chamberlain Drive, Duncraig, WA 6023

The Management Committee is considering a number of changes:

**New Carpet:** The current carpet is stained and starting to fray. A working group has been established to investigate replacing the carpet. Quotes have been obtained and a recommendation will be presented to the July MC meeting.

**Cashless Options:** The option for non-cash payment has been under consideration for some time. A number of alternatives have been considered and discussions held with other clubs. A card reader has been purchased. It is considered that using the reader is only suitable for red point events and membership payments.

The next alternative is to use tokens. Some tokens have been purchased and a trial will be discussed at the July MC meeting.

It should be noted that regardless of which alternative, if any, is implemented; payment by cash will always be acceptable.

**Hot Water Dispenser.** The management Committee is considering replacing the hot water urns with a boiling and chilled HydroTap unit. It is expected that this unit will be safer and more efficient than the urns.

Finally, members are reminded to stay at home if you are not well or have cold/flu symptoms. Use the hand sanitiser provided. Limiting the spread of Covid and flu is everyone's responsibility. •

## Competitions held around the Clubs

Congratulations to the winners of Red and Gold Points held at the club during the year so far. The events have been well supported and the level of competition high. The May Congress attracted strong competitors to the field, with plenty of Undercroft members also participating. Thank you to the Director, David Burn and Convenor, Debbie James who were ably assisted by our President Bernie Plath and Connie Coltrona. Grateful thanks to the many volunteers who worked to ensure the success of the weekend. Special mention to the kitchen helpers and the many members who provided food for our visitors and friends. A hallmark of a successful congress held at Undercroft is the delicious food options, participants are spoiled for choice.

### New Year Swiss Pairs



1<sup>st</sup> – Gwyneira Brahma & Dave Munro



2<sup>nd</sup> – Stella & James Steer



3<sup>rd</sup> – Helen Kemp & Chris Jenkins



Best Restricted – Sharon Dyball & Bernie Plath

## Syd Noakes Trophy



1<sup>st</sup> - Stella Steer & Sharon Dyball



2<sup>nd</sup> - Gwyneira Brahma & Dave Munro

## Alan Doig Swiss Pairs



1<sup>st</sup> James Steer & Jan Kochmanski



2<sup>nd</sup> - Stella Steer & Noriko Sakashita



3<sup>rd</sup> - Louise & Terry Collins



Best Restricted - Magda & Mike Lawes



Best Novice – Lisa Evans & Mike Bennett



Alan Doig Award – Maria Millington & Cherene Johns

### UBC GNOT (Open)

1<sup>st</sup> – Bieganski Team:

*Tuya Cooke, Lilia Male, Andrew Swider, Beata Bieganski, Tad Bieganski*

2<sup>nd</sup> – Brahma Team:

*Gwyneira Brahma, Dave Munro, James Steer, Stella Steer*

3<sup>rd</sup>- Collins Team:

*Louise Collins, Terry Collins, John Beddow, Peter McCann*

### 2025 Undercroft May Congress

### Swiss Pairs



1<sup>ST</sup> – Fran Holman & Sue Grenside



2<sup>nd</sup> – John Beddow & Egmont Melton



3<sup>rd</sup> - Denise Baker & Eve Clarkson



Best Undercroft – Stella & James Steer



Best Under 300 Masterpoints –  
Rory O'Hanlon & Lynne Roberts

## Novice Teams



1<sup>st</sup> – Ronnie Malthouse, Kate Sayer, Lynne Roberts, Rory O'Hanlon



2<sup>nd</sup> – Jo Wright, Nat Wright, Lisa Evans, Derek Dorward

## Open Teams



1<sup>st</sup> – Tom Lemann, Gerry Daly, Viv Wood, Marnie Leybourne



2<sup>nd</sup> – Vinod Nasta, Cynthia Belonogoff, Deanna Wilson, Andrea Peretti



3<sup>rd</sup> – Chris Jenkins, Helen Kemp, Louise Collins, Terry Collins



4<sup>th</sup> – Richard Grenside, Sue Grenside, Gill Gavshon, Chris Cullen

## Ossie Trigwell Pairs



1st- Gwyneira Brahma & Dave Munro



2nd- Jan Kochmanski & Andrew Swider



3<sup>rd</sup>-Roberta Altmuner & Marilyn Atkins



Best Novice – Mario Rubanathan & Mark O'Donoghue

Best Restricted – Greg McKie & Bernie Plath

## BAWA State Open Championships - held at UBC



1<sup>st</sup> Louise & Terry Collins



Best Restricted – Greg McKie & Bernie Plath

3<sup>rd</sup> Andrew Swider & Tad Bieganski

## J & I Sanderson Swiss Pairs



1<sup>st</sup> – Andrew Swider & Tad Bieganski



2<sup>nd</sup> – Lilia Male & Beata Bieganski



Best Restricted – Willy Dadour & David Chatman



Best Novice- Richard Van Proctor & Aaron Oskay

## Don Fraser Swiss Pairs



1<sup>st</sup> – Martin Broome & Peter McCann

3<sup>rd</sup> – Marita Ware & Stella Steer



2<sup>nd</sup> – Dave Munro & James Steer

## Walkin Swiss Monthly Session

February	Winners -David Fowler & Tuya Cooke 2nd – Divyesh & Rina Shah
March	Winners – Ziggy Balicki & Gregory Kuszewski 2nd – Joan Touyz & Roberta Altmuner
April	Winners – Myrna Suttner & Marilyn Atkins 2nd – Faye Shelton & Robin Shaw
May	Winners –Yulia Koh & Joan Schneider 2nd – Jenny Skinner & Connie Coltrona
June	Winners - Roberta Altmuner & Joan Touyz 2nd - David Fowler & Tuya Cooke
July	Winners - Sharon Dyball & Bernie Plath 2nd - Lorraine Poynton & Valerie Hildebrand

## Other Club Competition Winners from UBC

### *Albany Congress Welcome Pairs Winners*

Jamie Luxton & Yulia Koh Albany Pairs Consolation

3rd Place – David Saunders & Fra Crewe

### *WABC Super Novice, Novice & Restricted Congress*

1st Jo & Nat Wright, 2nd – Mike Bennett & Derek Dorward

### *Interstate Selection: Women*

Stella Steer & Gwyneira Brahma

### *Mandurah Summer Congress Pairs Final*

Tuya Cooke & Tad Bieganski

### *Mandurah Summer Congress Pairs Consolation*

Jenny Skinner & Judy Havas

### *Mandurah Summer Congress Teams*

3rd Richard & Sue Grenside, Val & Martin Broome

### *Nedlands Birthday Congress*

2nd Andrew Swider & Tad Bieganski

### *Rockingham Congress Open Pairs Final*

1st Tad & Beata Bieganski

3rd Martin & Val Broome

### *Bunbury Congress Pairs Final*

2nd Tuya Cooke & Tad Bieganski

### *Bunbury Congress Teams*

1st Lilia Male, Tuya Cooke, Tad & Beata Bieganski

### *TBIB Western Pairs 60+*

2nd Sue & Richard Grenside

### *Fremantle Congress*

1st Gwyneira Brahma & Dave Munro

2nd – Lilia Male & Beata Bieganski

### *WABC Winter Congress- Presidents Pairs*

3rd John Beddow & Egmont Melton

### *WABC Novice Pairs*

1st Marlene Robinson & Lynette Van Proctor

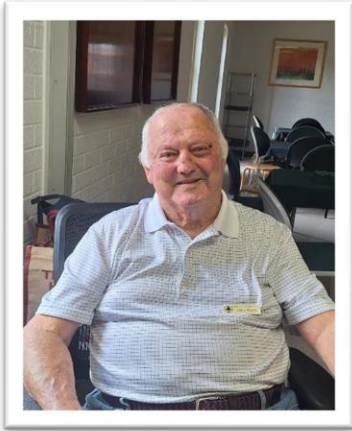
3rd Jo & Nat Wright

## **Interclub Teams of 4**

Competition for the year has begun with UBC fielding 2 Open Teams, 2 Intermediate Teams and 2 Novice Teams. Team members visit other clubs to compete or host the visiting club in our clubroom. It is a great way to meet like-minded players from other clubs and enjoy playing as a team. Thank you to Debbie James for co-ordinating the teams, Team Captains for organising dates for playing and collecting the results.

Special mention to John Beddow who for 26 years, has collated the results for BAWA. John has generously given of his time and expertise. He has recently announced his retirement from the role. Thank you from all of us at UBC.

## Remembering John Bayly



The passing of John Bayly, affectionately known as the 'Chick Magnet', a moniker that stuck when his partner Linda, attributed the increase in players attending the Saturday Session to John's magnetic personality with the women, has left us deeply saddened.

John was a past President, MC Member, Director, teaching helper to Lesley Routledge, volunteer caddy and banker.

John was always willing to assist, and he never wavered in his commitment to helping the club move forward.

He will be remembered for his kindness, his dry sense of humour and for always listening carefully before offering measured advice. We will miss him.

To honour John and his enthusiastic support of charity events, we held a John Bayly Memorial Session on Tuesday 10th June. All Director (thanks to Peter Wilson) and player table money was

donated to Wheelchairs for Kids, plus some generous donations from members who couldn't attend. The club raised \$1100.00 for the charity.

Thank you to the members who provided afternoon tea treats and the helpers who cleaned up. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and a fitting tribute to John.



## Other Fundraising at the Club



Thank you to our members for their generous donations to the Christmas Raffle and to Val MacIntyre for her work.

UBC raised \$400 for Wheelchairs for Kids in the year that saw Brother Thomas Oliver Pickett AM named WA winner of the 2025 Senior Australian of the Year and Western Australian of the Year. Brother Olly was also awarded the Alcoa of Australia Community Award.

Brother Olly co-founded Wheelchairs for Kids in 1996, which provides adjustable wheelchairs and occupational therapy expertise for children in developing countries.

His volunteer-run organisation has built and fitted more than 60,000 custom-made wheelchairs for children in 80 countries. It is the largest volunteer-led charity in Western Australia with more than 250 retirees involved.

That's quite an achievement and we are proud to be able to support such a worthy charity.

Ronald McDonald House Charities provide support across Australia to care for families with children who are ill or injured when they need it most.

The sale of cards made by Kerry Goldfinch has raised \$340 for Ronald McDonald.

Members enjoy selecting the handmade cards that Kerry has on offer, and she kindly continues to create them for our use.

### **Thank you to Mary Purcell**



Our grateful thanks to Mary for being our Membership Secretary for the past few years. It was a pleasure to work with such a positive member who willingly gave of her

time. We hope that Mary enjoys many more years of playing Bridge at our club.

## St John Ambulance Training

On February 10th, eighteen members arrived early at the club to complete a four-hour First Aid Training Course run by St John Ambulance. We volunteered our time to refresh our knowledge about how to resuscitate adults and young children, administer the defibrillator and to bandage a limb

following a snake bite. We don't anticipate a snake slithering into our club any time soon, but it's always good to be prepared. The presenter also shared her expertise in dealing with unexpected emergencies and other useful information.

Thank you to Jude Collins for preparing a submission to the City of Joondalup to cover the cost of the course and a new First Aid Kit.





*Thanks to John Beddow for his amusing story, you be the judge on the outcome.*

## What Goes Around Comes Around

By John Beddow

During my time in the Royal Australian Naval Police I was fortunate to attend many courses, some of which were held by other Police Enforcement Agencies. In 1994 while attending a course with the Australian Federal Police, we were fascinated with the following story that was delivered by the President of the American Association for Forensic Science: Dr Harper Mills.

“On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1993, the medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus and concluded that he died from a shotgun wound to the head. The deceased had jumped from the top of a ten storey building intending to commit suicide (he left a note indicating his despondency). As he fell past the ninth floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast through a window, which killed him instantly. Neither the shooter nor the deceased was aware that a safety net had been erected at the eighth floor level to protect window washers and that Opus would not have been able to complete his suicide attempt because of this.

Ordinarily, Dr Mills continued, under Californian Law, a person who sets out to commit suicide ultimately succeeds, even though the mechanism might not be what he intended. That Opus was shot on the way down to certain death nine storey’s below probably would not have changed his mode of death from suicide to homicide. But the fact that he would have been unsuccessful in his suicide attempt caused the Medical Examiner to believe that he had a homicide on his hands. The room on the ninth floor whence the shotgun blast emanated was occupied by an elderly man and his wife. They had been arguing and he had threatened her with the shotgun. He was so upset that when he pulled the trigger, he completely missed his wife and the pellets went out of the window striking Opus.

‘When one intends to kill subject A, but kills subject B in the attempt, one is guilty of the murder of subject B’

When confronted with the charge, the old man and his wife were both adamant that neither knew that the shotgun was loaded. The old man said that it was his longstanding habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded shotgun. He had no intention of murdering her; therefore the killing of Optus appeared to be an accident. That is, the gun had been accidentally loaded.

The continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the old couple's son loading the shotgun some six weeks prior to the fatal incident. It transpired that the old lady had cut off her son's financial support and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to use the shotgun threateningly, loaded the shotgun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother.

'The Case now became one of murder on the part of the son for the death of Ronald Opus;

However, there was an exquisite twist. Further investigation revealed the son, one Ronald Opus, had become increasingly despondent over the failure of his attempt to engineer his mother's murder. This led him to jump from the tenth storey building on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, only to be killed by the shotgun blast.

The Medical Examiner closed the case as 'suicide'.

*A lot of us can relate to this story by John, we often bid with a high degree of Just Hope. Sometimes it works!*

## Just Hope

Playing at a club session at Nedlands, I picked up this 'Rock Crusher':

AKQ64  
Void  
AKQ862  
AQ

After two passes (why am I not surprised) I opened 2C (Game Force) My left-hand opponent bid 3H (Ratbag!) and my partner bid 3C! Naturally this insufficient bid was not accepted and so Partner converted to 4C. What to do, what to do? Ace asking could be futile for two reasons; firstly, if Partner does happen to have the AH, I may not be

able to get there, or I would be committed to playing in NTs hoping that a) a heart is led, and b) BOTH my suits break favourably. Secondly although denying an Ace gives me more hope that he has the KC (he did make a free bid over the 3H) it is possible that he has the KH (useless) rather than the KC (Gold) But wait a minute, he did bid Clubs did he not. With an expected 5 + suit surely the King is there. OK, 7 Diamonds.

AH led and Dummy tracks with:

85  
 J52  
 93  
 J108753

OK, no KC and at first glance, no entry to Dummy to finesse the Clubs, actually not much in the way of points either. Surely I can't reasonably expect the Spades to break three - three with my huge two suiter and LHO's seven card heart suit. But there is no other choice. Playing against two very experienced State Bridge players, which they were, I had little hope that a squeeze in Diamonds and Spades would persuade either of them to dump the KC, especially as after showing out in Hearts at trick one, they can dump Hearts until the cows come home. Oh well, when all else fails 'Just Hope'

Ace of Spades, King of Spades, fingers crossed, 4 of Spades. My LHO discards a Club! Ruff the Spade, play a club. The Queen wins! Pull trumps and claim. The full deal:

	AKQ64	
	-	
	AKQ862	
	AQ	
J932		107
Q43		AK109876
J104		75
K96		42
	85	
	J52	
	93	
	J108753	

So, although Spades didn't break three – three, my LHO couldn't beat the Nine of Diamonds. Milton Miller would have been proud.

My Partner apologised profusely for his 'Overbid'. Naturally, I magnanimously forgave him. John Beddow

Note: Milton Miller used to set the hands for the Simultaneous Pairs and always included a hand where the Nine of Diamonds played a key role. The Nine of Diamonds is referred to as 'The Curse of Scotland'. There are a number of different versions as to why it was so called, but one of the most popular explanations is that the British Commander William Augustus, the "Butcher Duke of Cumberland" was a lover of card games and always carried two packs on his person. After his decisive victory in the Battle of Culloden, he quickly scribbled an execution order for his Scottish prisoners on the closest paper he had at hand. The paper turned out to be—you guessed *it*—*the Nine of Diamonds, a card that haunts the Scots to this day.*•

## Management Committee 2025

The Management Committee for 2025 was endorsed at the AGM in March. We have a new look with volunteers being asked to nominate to a role that they take responsibility for. This is proving to be highly successful, with new members enthusiastically contributing their time and expertise to ensuring that the club provides opportunity and growth in all aspects of the club.



President:  
Bernie Plath



Vice-President:  
Sharon Dyball



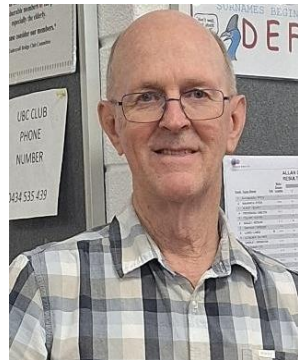
**Secretary:  
Caroline Chadd**



**Treasurer:  
Stella Steer**



**Membership Secretary:  
Maria Millington**



**Masterpoint Secretary:  
Terry Collins**

**Lessons/Development:**

**Jenny Skinner**

**Dealing:**

**Alan Rolls**

**Kitchen Area Maintenance:**

**Sandra Butler**

**Playing Area Maintenance:**

**Sue McGinnity**

**Social Coordinator:**

**Connie Coltrona**

**Facilities Coordinator:**

**Phil McGinnity**

**Refreshment Coordinator:**

**Ley Ramsay**

**Special mention to Nesha Shah our Office Manager and De'Arn Alexander our Partner Finder.**

**Our Team of Directors for 2025 is James Bausor, Graham Milward, Peter Stephenson, Peter Wilson, Richard Van Proctor, Ted Roscoe, Terry Collins & John Ruane.**

## NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Please forward contributions to the newsletter such as photos from a significant birthday event, holiday, an interesting story or Bridge hand, to Sharon at [ubcinc.vp@gmail.com](mailto:ubcinc.vp@gmail.com)

### Committee Contact Numbers

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Sharon Dyball (Vice-President)	0419 848 002 <a href="mailto:ubcinc.vp@gmail.com">ubcinc.vp@gmail.com</a>	
Stella Steer (Treasurer)	0400 203 313 <a href="mailto:ubcinc.treasurer@gmail.com">ubcinc.treasurer@gmail.com</a>	
Caroline Chadd (Secretary)	<a href="mailto:ubcinc.secretary@gmail.com">ubcinc.secretary@gmail.com</a>	
Maria Millington (Membership Secretary)	<a href="mailto:ubcinc.memsec@gmail.com">ubcinc.memsec@gmail.com</a>	
Terry Collins (Masterpoint Secretary)	<a href="mailto:ubcinc.msec@gmail.com">ubcinc.msec@gmail.com</a>	

## Undercroft Bridge Club

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