

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, April 18, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, April 4, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne Site

The March Individual was won by Clint Lew, followed by Ann McClelland, Steve Mancini (1st in “C”), Paul Chrisney, and Richard Patterson.

The February Unit Game was taken, in a photo-finish (it was decided by a couple of late plays!) by Susan and Dave Ruoff, who just edged out Ann McClelland-Paul Chrisney. Following were Gino Barbieri - Bill Papa, who tied for third with Vic and Kerry Sartor. Genise Hasan - Hanan Mogharbel (1st in “B”) rounded out the top five.

One promotion again this month: Anand Kumar is now an NABC Master. Congratulations, Anand, and keep up the good work.

The top game this month was “only” a 69.1% effort by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa. again. (Did I hear someone say, “break up the Yankees?”) Other names up on the leader board: Richard Patterson, Hanan Mogharbel, Kurt Trieselmann, Penny Barbieri, Claudia Cochran, Barbara Papa, Joe Unis, Genise Hasan, Gayle Ginsburg, Pat Radamaker, Clint Lew, Ken Bloomfield, Linda Tessier, Herb Stampfl, Denise Morgan, Ken Bloomfield, Karen Olin, Karen McCarthy, Roger Boyar, Diane Simpson, and Yours Truly.

We have two interesting (?) hands for you this time, both from the recent D23/D22 STaC. On the very first board, sitting East, you find yourself staring at

♠ K652 ♥ J ♦ none ♣ AKJ98754.

Ho hum, just your run-of-the-mill 8-4-1 hand. You open 1♣, LHO overcalls 1♦ (not a surprise, is it?), partner responds 1♠, and you ... ? Tempting to play in clubs, especially since partner doesn't guarantee five spades in this sequence, One hopes you have some way of showing a good spade raise, because partner has

♠ Q9873 ♥ AK3 ♦ K62 ♣ 62.

Even with those two wasted red kings, 6♣ can make if you pick up the trumps (LHO has ♠AJx), but 6♣ is one down unless you take the first-round hook for the trump queen, since RHO has all three of them. (Oh well, they say one peek is worth two finesses ...) This is all predicated on the opponents not sacrificing, since 7♦ is only three down for -500.

Next up is a little lesson on how not to play negative doubles. Sitting West, with no one vulnerable, you pick up

♠ A9 ♥ Q8764 ♦ 6 ♣ AT983.

For better or for worse, you open 1♥. Next hand overcalls 2♦, and partner passes. RHO also passes, and you double (takeout). Pass, pass (!), pass. While 2♦ does take a beating – down about 800 – that's not good enough because partner – the passer – holds

♠ KT7 ♥ AJT2 ♦ AK985 ♣ J

and 6♥ is stone cold. Worse, the ♥K is not only on side, it's stiff, and 7♥ rolls home. Too bad, so sad! (The pair defending 2♦ actually won the event with about 68% ... one can only imagine their score had they bid the slam.)

With tax time upon us, our Quote for the Month is appropriate: "If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion." (George Bernard Shaw)

Until next month ...