

Pomona-Covina Unit  
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, April 22, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, April 1, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

Our Unit game this month will be one week later than usual, to avoid conflict with the Easter holiday. We will be honoring the Ace of Club and Mini-McKenny winners before the game. If you won your bracket (either award), you will have received word from your Membership Chairman by now. If you didn't win, you can see how close you came by logging in to the MyACBL section of the League's web site.

In the March Unit game, Margie Hall - Ann Raymond outdistanced the field by more than two full boards. Bunched up behind – second place topped sixth place by less than one full board – were Vic Sartor – Bill Papa and Claudia Cochran - Hanan Mogharbel (tied for second), Penny Barbieri - Rosalie Roberts, Chuck Lohr - David Ochroch, and Clinton Lew - Patricia Radamaker. This was the last of our “club” Unit games. In April we resume regular Unit games (paying more points), our mild protest against the fee hike no doubt being greeted with disdain in Horn Lake.

In the March Individual, Flight C players took the top two spots. Paul Chrisney was the winner, followed by Linda Tessier, Richard Patterson, Genise Hasan, and a three-way tie for fifth: Clint Lew, Lois Snowden, and Yours Truly.

The top score this month was 77.2%, posted by Fredy and Lulu Minter. Others topping the leader board were Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Genise Hasan, Richard Patterson, Hanan Mogharbel, Margie Hall, Linda Ananaea, Claudia Cochran, and Gayle Ginsburg.

Just one promotion to report this month. David Ochroch is now an NABC Master.

We are now officially registered for The Longest Day. It falls on Wednesday, June 21 this year. We will be holding games at the Knights of Columbus, at 9:00 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. (And if enough players want to hang around, we can have an evening session starting at 6:00 p.m.) All entry fees and other donations go to the Alzheimer's Association, and are tax deductible. If you wish to donate, you can do so most easily by visiting <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>. (You will wind up on Yours Truly's home page ... the Team Captain. No huhu, it all goes to the same place.)

For our Hand-of-the-Month, we revisit the “Better Lucky Than Good” school. North deals, no one is vulnerable. You are East, holding

East: ♠ AJT74 ♥ Q73 ♦ 6 ♣ K654

The auction is straightforward, if primitive. After three passes, West opens 1♦. North passes, East says 1♠, and that becomes the final contract. The opening lead is the ♣9, and partner faces the following dummy.

West: ♠ 32 ♥ AKT5 ♦ J943 ♣ AJ3

It's not entirely clear why partner passed your 1♠ bid. Perhaps she was impressed with the hand's trump support, or has ESP and sensed the five decent spades opposite. It turns out

that with average defense, you will make 1♠ with overtricks. But, you say, won't you be outsourced by those pairs in the more normal 1NT contract?

Not a chance! Look at the full deal:

	♠ Q5	
	♥ none	
	♦ AQT872	
	♣ QT872	
♠ 32		♠ AJT74
♥ AKT5		♥ Q73
♦ J943		♦ 6
♣ AJ3		♣ K654
	♠ K986	
	♥ J98642	
	♦ K5	
	♣ 9	

That's right! Hearts are 6-0. Diamonds are 6-2, and Clubs are 5-1. If West makes the normal rebid of 1NT and plays it there, the opponents run off the first six tricks in Diamonds and then watch you have fun playing on the black suits. You *can* make 1NT, since North shows out when you lead to the ♥Q ... IF you do that before playing on either black suit. Not likely!

At the table, 1♠ made 4 (+170) due to friendly defense, while at the other tables, the scores ranged from 300 to 500 (both ways!). Just another so-so board ... but *nobody* makes 1NT.

Quote for the Month: "Nothing is more fairly distributed than common sense: no one thinks he needs more of it than he already has." (Rene Descartes)

Until next month ...