

## Pomona-Covina Unit News

April 2020

Unit Game: Saturday April 18 – Maybe

11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: No game in April

Sigh. Our main playing site is closed (completely) until April 13, at least. So there will be *no* club games held until at least April 14. If the situation changes, I will let those of you on my email list know as soon as I find out.

We cannot, at this time, say whether or not the April Unit game will be held. The Knights of Columbus hall is also closed until further notice. Stay tuned to our Unit web site for updates – I'll beat on the webmaster (I know him *very* well) to keep things current. I'll also send out updates on my email blast. You don't receive it? Why not?

But, as of this writing, our planned joint Sectional tournament with Unit 516 is still ON. See the ad on page 4. Of course, the situation is fluid, and this could change. Again, stay tuned to our Unit web site for updates.

Well, better lucky than good, Your Correspondent won the March Individual, with a score of 62.5%. David Ochroch was only ½ matchpoint behind, followed by Clint Lew. Steve Mancini and Al Lax tied for the fourth spot.

The March Unit game was, unfortunately, cancelled, due to our playing site's closure. *If* we are able to hold the April game, we will be presenting the 2019 awards at that time. (My thoughts on the whole situation are best expressed in this month's Quote.)

A fair number of points were won in March, largely due to the STaC. The majority of the points in March were silver points. There were two "whopper" games. Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore blitzed the field in the Friday morning session, scoring 9.94 masterpoints with their huge 71.53% game. On Tuesday, Roger Boyar – Steve Mancini took top District honors in the morning with their 67.0% game. Overall, 24 players won 61.76 points in the abbreviated March schedule. Amr and Dominique topped the list; Steve Mancini was third, at 7.45; Roger Boyar fourth, 6.41, and Clint Lew fifth, 5.20. Oh well, the April list will be – ahem – quite short, it seems.

The top game in March was that 71.53% bomb by Amr and Dominique. The only other 65% effort was that Tuesday STaC game by Roger and Steve. Other winners: Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Sofi Kasubhai, and Clint Lew.

No promotions to report this month.

With play so restricted, there haven't been a lot of really interesting hands. But this one may amuse you. We'll start by just looking at your (East's) cards. North deals, E-W vulnerable.

♠ none ♥ 3 ♦ KQ976543 ♣ AKQ5.

Wow, according to the losing trick count, you have a two-loser hand! Your main suit is a bit moth-eaten, of course. As you are deciding what to do, North opens 2♠. Over to you. I suppose 3♦, 4♦ and 5♦ all have something to recommend them, and all are of course flawed in some way.

Made your decision? Then let's look at the whole deal, and find out what happened. BTW, it was a two-table Individual; too bad, it would have been interesting to see what various people did! Ready?

♠ J106532	
♥ 1084	
♦ AJ108	
♣ none	
♠ KQ9874	♠ none
♥ AKQ962	♥ 3
♦ none	♦ KQ976543
♣ 4	♣ AKQ5
♠ A	
♥ J52	
♦ 2	
♣ J10987632	

At one table, North opened 2♠. Not everyone's choice, to be sure, but OK, that's what happened. East bid 3♦, trying perhaps for the White Feather Award. Or perhaps he sensed that it was one giant misfit of a deal. Pass, pass, pass. With the foul trump break, making 4, losing only 3 trump tricks! (Actually, declarer has a lot of tricks, but can't take them all, due to the trump situation.)

At the other table, East tried 5♦, raised to 6♦ (!) by West. Making the same 10 tricks for down 2.

Go figure! Yes, this deal comes to you courtesy of the Laurel & Hardy School of Bridge.

Also note that either East or West can take 10 tricks in a NT contract and West can take 11 tricks in a Heart contract. (Thanks to Brian Richardson for pointing this out. Can anyone think of a way to get to either 3NT or 4♥ on this deal?)

Quote for the month: "Against stupidity the very gods themselves contend in vain."  
(Johan Christoph Friedrich von Schiller)