

## Pomona-Covina Unit News

April 2021

Individual: Saturday, April 10, Upland

Yes, the Individual is back! At last. We have a new playing site this year, as you will no doubt have noticed. It is the home of Rose Roberts, 2501 Euclid Crescent Drive. Directions can be found on our Unit web site. It's a bit tricky to find – whoever laid out the roads up there was pretty much laid out himself. And used a rubber ruler, no doubt.

I've enquired as to the status of the Knights of Columbus facility, but haven't received any answer yet. Ditto the La Fetra Center.

This month, we have not one, not two, but THREE rank changes to report: Stephen Andersen and Maria Marvosh are now Club Masters. Ho Ming Yim has reached the status of Bronze Life Master.

Here's a moderately interesting hand that came up yesterday (as I write this) on RealBridge. We're playing IMP pairs. You, East, deal with none vulnerable, and pick up (so to speak) these cards:

♠ K 10 7 4 2   ♥ 8   ♦ A K Q 6 5 2   ♣ A

Another one of those semi-balanced hands. It is a 3-loser hand, but it's going to be tough to describe if you open 2♣. OK, 1♦ it is.

LHO overcalls 1♥, partner steps in with 1♠, and RHO finishes off the suit list with 2♣. Well? This hand has *enormous* playing strength! So I decided to venture a 4♥ splinter. LHO passed (first one of the auction!) and partner signed off in 4♠. Two passes, then LHO chimed in with 5♣. Partner doubled. Over to you.

This hand has way too much strength to accept what's likely only a 100 or 300 penalty, so a pull to 5♠ it is. But when it goes to RHO, he ups the ante: 6♣.

Now what? It happened to be a first-time partnership, making it tougher. What is partner's double all about? Can't possibly be trump tricks, with me holding the ♣A. Maybe she has poor spades, something like ♠QJxxx? Then partner likely has wasted honors in hearts, and we are likely off two key cards. So I doubled.

Too bad. 11 IMPs away. Here's the full deal:

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ none	
	♥ 9	
	♦ J 9 7 4 3	
	♣ K Q 7 6 5 4 3	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ A Q 6 5 3		♠ K 10 7 4 2
♥ J 19 6 4 3 2		♥ 8
♦ 10		♦ A K Q 6 5 2
♣ 1011		♣ A
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ J 9 8	
	♥ A K Q 7 5	
	♦ 8	
	♣ J 9 8 2	

As you can see, 6♠ is cold as the cards lie, and 6♣ is only one down. I guess it *does* help to know your partner's tendencies! Note that 5♦ is down on the rotten trump break. But then, three of the four hands are semi-balanced. Ahem. So the bad breaks are to be expected.

Quote for the month: "If the automobile had followed the same development cycle as the computer, a Rolls-Royce would today cost \$100, get a million miles per gallon, and would explode once a year, killing everyone inside." (Robert X. Cringely)