

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, August 16, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, August 2, Site TBD

I see I owe you the results from the Longest Day events. The morning session was won by Teresa Thurman - Gitta Earll, with Vic Sartor - Hans Hehnke, Amr Elghamry - Shiu-Ming Huang, and Linda Ananea - Karen McCarthy right behind. The first afternoon session – our regular Unit game, Bill Papa - Vic Sartor tied with Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson for the top spot. Third were Teresa Thurman - Gitta Earll, followed by Ray Malki - Marie Rose Kardous and then Ann McClelland - Denise Morgan. In the second afternoon session, Vic Sartor - Bill Papa led the field, followed by Amr Elghamry - Shiu-Ming Huang, Pat Rademaker - Clint Lew, and Doug Campbell - Linda Tessier. We raised a tidy sum for the Alzheimer Association – not quite as good as last year, but a nice effort, nonetheless. The Board of Directors thanks all of you who participated.

The July Unit game was captured by Patricia Rademaker - Rosalie Roberts, finishing less than one match point in front of Georgiana Battuello - Kim Horn. Walt Otto - Larry Clark, Vic Sartor - Hans Hehnke, and Susan Emminger - Linda Ananea rounded out the top five. Close game this month – less than one top separated the top five places.

There was no Individual game last month, due to the Bridge Week Regional. Speaking of which, our Unit did rather well in the tournament. 25 players won a total of 162.48 master points. Leading the way was Sherman Gao, with 26.82. Next was Larry Bolls, 17.08; Jack Chao, 14.25; Anand and Kiran Kumar, 11.99; Claudia Cochran, 11.21; and Dale Quasny, 10.06. In top event efforts, Sherman Gao took 2nd in B in an A/B pairs event; Dale Quasny won two separate 299-er events; Ray Malki and Marie Rose Kardous took first in a side game; and Penny Barbieri, Claudia Cochran, Yours Truly, and the Kumars took section tops in one or more events. Keep up the good work – Torrance isn't too far away.

The site for the August Individual is TBD because just as this article was going to press, our primary site (La Verne) had to bail. We'll check around this week at our alternate sites and send out the usual Bridge Alert.

If I missed your name in the tourney results – hey, there were a *lot* of names to go through. Don't be afraid to contact Your Correspondent to report results. Good ones, that is. Heck, if you managed to go for 1700 on a part-score deal and would like to share the experience with the rest of us ... sure, why not?

Lots of promotions this month, and there will surely be more when the Regional results are included (next month). Peggy Diller is a Club Master; Judy Husted is a Sectional Master; Anand Kumar is a Regional Master; and Clint Lew has ascended to the dizzying heights of Silver Life Master.

The top game this month was a 69.56% effort by Bill Papa and Denise Morgan. Other first place finishers were Genise Hasan, Fred and Lu Minter, Sandy Jones, Roger Boyar, Pat Rademaker, Richard Patterson, Joe Unis, Don Naf, Hanan Mogharbel, Charlotte Capelle, Sofi Kasubhai, Clint Lew, and Evelyn Hubacker.

It's *that* time again ... or almost. Our annual two-session championship game is coming up in October, and with it, dinner and election of next year's Board of Directors. Chinese and Italian cuisine have been discussed as likely possibilities for the October dinner. If you have any others, let one of your Boarders (so to speak) know. Also – we are always looking for fresh meat ... er, that is, Volunteers, to serve on the Board. The duties are not onerous, and you get the satisfaction of knowing You Made a Difference. Again, to nominate yourself – or a friend (?) – just contact any Board member.

After last month's plethora of interesting hands, this month was rather tame. Maybe it was all those boring computer-dealt hands at Bridge Week. Anyway, here goes – you judge whether it was a brilliancy or a lucky idiocy. As dealer, vulnerable, playing match points, you pick up ♠ Axx ♥ KT8x ♦ AKx ♣ Axx. No problem there; playing Standard, you open 1♦. There is no opposition bidding, and partner responds 1♥. And it's your turn again.

You surely have enough to bid 4♥. If you do, you are likely to play it there. One iconoclast decided to try 2NT, risking a pass if partner responded with a real dog, but leaving room for bigger and better things. Pard comes back with 4♣, ace asking. You show your three aces, and partner signs off in 6NT. Hmmmmm, you were planning to support the hearts some point, but too late now. Oh well.

Dummy flops with ♠ Qx ♥ AJxx ♦ QJxx ♣ Kxx. Like the contract? In 6♥, all you have to do is find the trump queen, since you can ruff your third spade in dummy. Or pitch it on your long diamond, for that matter. Now you need to find the ♠K on side and find the heart queen. Not so good, is it?

But wait: by suppressing your heart holding, you induced LHO to lead ... the ♥9! Through strength and up to weakness, I guess. End of problems in that suit. Now if the ♠K cooperates ... it does, and you score 1440, a cold top. One other pair bid the heart slam, and made it, 1430.

So ... was Mr. Wise-Guy 2NT brilliant ... or the second coming of the Rueful Rabbit? (With perhaps a little Mr. Smug mixed in ...)

Quote for the month: "Depend on the rabbit's foot if you will, but remember it didn't work for the rabbit." (R. E. Shay)

Until next month ...