

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, August 19, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, August 5, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

Our biggest news this month has nothing to do with bridge. One of our members – Dr. Hanan Mogharbel – IS NOW A U.S. CITIZEN!!!! Congratulations, Hanan, and we thank you for the trouble you have gone through. As an aside ... we wonder, how many of us who were born in the USA could, right now (no studying), pass the citizenship test?

Sadder news ... long-time Unit member, Bronze Life Master, and all-around Great Guy, Walt Otto passed away on Saturday, July 15. He will be greatly missed.

Our Unit was well represented at the Bridge Week regional. Fifteen members brought home a total of 152.67 masterpoints. Notable successes: Vic Sartor and Bill Papa took first place in an open pairs event, garnering a whopping 33.11 points. Steve Mancini earned his first gold points, with a 9th place finish in Gold Rush. A team with Penny Barbieri and Yours Truly took second in the Bracket-3 Compact KO. Clint Lew, Hanan Mogharbel, and Richard Patterson were ¾ of a team placing third in Bracket-2 of the Sunday B Swiss. Amr Elghamry was on a team placing fifth overall in an open Swiss event. Jack Chao was on the winning team in a Bracket-2 KO. And Chuck Lohr was on a team tying for second in the Bracket-4 of the Sunday Swiss.

In the July Unit game, Amr Elghamry – Joseph Viola edged out Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, followed by Roger Boyar – Richard Patterson and then Kiran Kumar – Avice Osmundson. Bridget O'Sullivan and Yours Truly took first in Flight C.

In the July Individual, Linda Tessier took first, followed by Don Logsdon, Clint Lew, and Steve Mancini tying for fourth with Pat Radamaker.

Once again, there were two scores over 70% this month. The best was a monstrous 79.33%, posted by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa. The other one was by – hold your breath again – Yours Truly and Penny Barbieri, 70.88%. (That's not bad considering that 79% pair was in the field.) Others topping the leader board: Genise Hasan, Paul Chrisney, Bridget O'Sullivan, Hanan Mogharbel, Joe Unis, C.Y. Chang, Roger Boyar, Gino Barbieri, Amr Elghamry, and Lulu Minter.

Two promotions to report: James O'Dowd is now a Junior Master, and Daniel Sonner is now a Regional Master. Congratulations to you both.

Coming soon ... well, not *real* soon, but soon enough: our annual two-session Championship Game, and Unit Board elections, both scheduled for Saturday, October 21. We plan to return to Sergio's for lunch/dinner, between sessions. Our annual Membership Meeting takes place at the same time. We NEED some new blood for the Board ... it's hardly any work at all, and new ideas are always welcome. Interested? Contact any Board member.

For our Hand of the Month, we have this “how do you evaluate your hand?” exhibit. Vulnerable against not, as dealer you pick up this nice hand:

♠ A32 ♥ KQT76 ♦ AK ♣ AT83

Well, let's see now. A balanced 20 HCP. Worth 2NT, no? Actually, no. It's not really a hand you want led up to, is it? (Besides, partner has been picking up *bubkes* all day ... if you are superstitious.) So let's open it 1♥ and see what happens.

Aack! What happens is, the auction continues pass – pass – pass, and there you are in 1♥. The opening lead is a diamond, and partner contributes this mess to your effort:

♠ Q5 ♥ 98 ♦ T6533 ♣ T752

Ewwwww. Well, the ♥98 help some. It turns out that trumps are 5-1 (of course) with ♥AJxxx behind you. 2NT would get destroyed, just about everything being wrong. (Clubs are 4-1, diamonds are 5-1, and who cares about the spades?) 1♥ will make 2 or 3 depending on the defense, while 2NT goes down, down, down. We suppose it's a matter of style, but if partner is broke, do you really want to be at the two level?

Quote for the Month: “An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile -- hoping it will eat him last.” (Winston Churchill)

Until next month ...