

Pomona-Covina Unit News

August 2019

Unit Game: Saturday August 17 20,
11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, August 3, 9:30 a.m., Claremont

The top finisher in the July Individual was Linda Stuart. Clint Lew tied with Paul Chrisney for second.

The July Unit game was a real squeaker, with Bill Papa – Vic Sartor edging out Penny and Gino Barbieri by just ½ matchpoint. Hanan Mogharbel - Roger Boyar placed third..

Again this month, the games were quite competitive. Four pairs did manage to reach the magic 65% mark. Richard Patterson – Esther Johnson had the best score, 70%. Roger Boyar – Steve Mancini were next, 67.5%. Then we find Hanan Mogharbel and Vic Sartor, 66.67%, followed by Fredy and Lulu Minter, at 65.98%. There were several scores in the 63-64% area, but so sorry, it takes 65% to make the Honors list. Others winners: Penny Barbieri, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Claudia Cochran, Linda Tessier, Clint Lew, and Yours Truly.

33 players won a total of 63.98 masterpoints in club games within the Unit. This total does not include the STaC games, which is why the total is a bit low this month. The top 5 masterpoint earners in July were Penny Barbieri (6.34), Fredy and Lulu Minter (4.82), Gino Barbieri (4.56), and Yours Truly (3.67).

Unit representation at the Long Beach Regional was, well, let's just say it's been better. 10 Unit members brought back 136 masterpoints. Topping the list was Amr Elghamry, with 38.20. Randy Howard was second, with 26.97. Next we find Your Correspondent with 23.57. (Don't be impressed. It took 14 sessions – that's 340 boards, folks – to accrue those points. Perseverance triumphs over skill once again.) Then we find Harrish Singh, 14.88; Hanan Mogharbel, 13.88; and rounding out the double-digit winners, Penny Barbieri, 12.25.

No promotions to report *again* this month. Three in a row! However, to be announced officially next month: Hanan Mogharbel brought home that last bit of gold she needed to get the Gold Card. Congratulations, Hanan. The sky's the limit, now.

Turning to the Las Vegas NABC, a few Unit members attended. Nine, if I didn't miss anyone in the results list. (If I did, please forgive me: nearly 6,000 people won masterpoints in Las Vegas.) Clint Lew, Sandy Jones, Bill Papa, David Ochroch, Linda Stuart, Amr Elghamry, and Your Correspondent were all spotted. Also attending, although we didn't meet, were Kai Liu and Don Nakasaki. David and YC managed a third place (only 4 VP out of first, how frustrating!) in the "B" Swiss (don't ask which bracket), followed by a first, the next day, in the same event. The win was convincing, 21 VPs, which would have been 31 VPs had not YC made a totally bone-headed call in the last round. Well, a win is a win! Fortunately, my teammates picked up the slack. The top point getter in Vegas was Amr, with 14.66. Amr's best result was a section top in A/X pairs. David and YC were right behind with 14.29. Bill Papa did well, racking up 7.59, and finishing second overall in the Wednesday-Thursday side game series. Overall, Unit members brought home 56 points.

For our hand of the month, we have an entry from that same NABC. It's matchpoints, none vulnerable. East is the dealer, You, North, pick up this so-so hand:

♠ AK752 ♥ 764 ♦ 10 ♣ 10843.

So what, you say? Wait!

After two passes, LHO opens 1♥. Partner calls 2♦, thrilling you to no end. RHO raises to 2♥. Pass, pass, partner now sticks in 3♣. Pass, pass, 3♥ by LHO. Pass, pass, over to you. Well?

You'd be delighted to play 4♣, not seeing a lot of defense to 3♥. How about 3♣, instead? Why not!? Partner might have a couple of spades, and probably does, given all the heart bidding by the opponents. Better still will be the look on partner's face! After a short huddle, partner figures out what's going on, passes, and 3♠ rolls home. 4♣ is also a make, but +130 isn't as good as +140, is it? If you found this bid, you got 87% of the matchpoints. And a discussion with partner, informing him that OF COURSE your BOON (Bid Out Of Nowhere) showed not just a preference for clubs, which your pass of 3♣ indicated, but quality support and a willingness to play 4♣, in addition to a decent 5-card spade suit. Bridge is *such* a simple game, isn't it?

In case you are interested, here is the dummy you caught if you bid 3♠:

♠ 63 ♥ 109 ♦ A7652 ♣ AKQ6.

Spades were 3-3. So if the opponents play on trumps to kill your heart ruff, you win a diamond, four clubs, and four spades. If they don't play spades, you get a heart ruff and might even make a tenth trick. Even if spades are 4-2, you're OK so long as they don't ruff one of your club winners.

Quote for the month: "When a true genius appears in this world you may know him by the sign that the dunces are all in confederacy against him." (Jonathan Swift)