

Pomona-Covina Unit News

August 2020

Unit Game: Saturday August 29, 11:00 a.m., Chino
Individual: Nope. Not this month.

Well, I'm not-a-gonna waste any more typing letting you know that La Fetra is still closed. If-and-when, I'll let you know. LOUD.

And, the Knights of Columbus Hall in Glendora has now closed again. I decided not to even attempt to hold a Unit game in July, but I'm hopeful for August. Because my personal schedule is a bit ... awful best describes it ... in August, the game will have to be on the 5th Saturday rather than our usual 3rd Saturday. Note that this is NOT Labor Day weekend, but the one before it. Masks will be required.

Space is somewhat limited (I want to keep the tables well separated), so I am REQUIRING advance sign-ups. Please let me know if you plan to attend *not later than* Wednesday, August 26. If I don't have enough by then, no game. Note that since facility rent won't be a problem, I'll even hold a two or three table (team) game if that's fine with the players. Random teams (OK to play with your favorite partner, of course), and I'll assign handicaps to the teams. The entry fee will be reduced; not sure how much, just yet.

The Individual held on the morning of July 4th was a modest success. We had nine players, giving the Host the last sit-out and giving him time to fire up the BBQ. Not enough people signed up in advance for an August game (it would have been on the 1st), but we'll try again for September 5.

Oh, yes, the winner of the July Individual was Rosalie Roberts. Susie Emminger came in second, Sofi Kasubhai third, and Linda Tessier fourth.

No promotions to report again this month. I haven't seen too many of our Unit members playing in the PPDVBC, so again, no surprise.

If you haven't been dropping in to the PPDVBC, maybe you should think about it. I plan to reward those players who have been supporting the Virtual Club, once face-to-face bridge resumes at La Fetra. How? Not tellin' ...yet.

For our Hand-of-the-Month, we have an exhibit which once again demonstrates why this is such a fascinating and unpredictable game. It should drive you mad ... if you aren't already there. (Bridge is sort of like playing the oboe: if you aren't crazy to take it up in the first place, it will surely drive you there. Pressure on the brain, don't you know?)

Anyway, you are West, not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, and you find yourself looking at this *fine* collection:

♠ none ♥ 9 8 7 5 4 3 2 ♦ 4 ♣ A K J 10 7

Partner opens the bidding 1♠ (what else). South passes, and you bid 1NT, forcing. North passes, and partner rebids 2♠ (of course). But now you can call 3♥, and hope to play it there. No, partner pulls to 3♠, which just makes. (He has to lose three trump tricks and a diamond, there being only two pitches on dummy's clubs.)

At one table, South intervened over 1♠ with 2♦, allowing West to make a somewhat odd negative double. No matter, East rebid 2♠, pass, pass, 3♦ by North (!), pass, pass, 3♥ by West, pass, 3♠ by East.

Here's the full deal:

♠ K 10 6 3	
♥ A 10 6	
♦ Q 7 6	
♣ 8 5 4	
♠ none	♠ A Q J 7 4 2
♥ 9 8 7 5 4 3 2	♥ none
♦ 4	♦ A J 5 3
♣ A K J 10 7	♣ 6 3 2
	♠ 9 8 5
	♥ K Q J
	♦ K 10 9 8 2
	♣ Q 9

So long as the ♦A remains intact, declarer can force out the trumps and run the clubs. (South's normal lead is a heart from the sequence.) But if South does call diamonds, North pushes the ♦Q through as soon as he gains the lead, and it's curtains.

The bizarre part is that in hearts, West makes FOUR because of the 3-3 trump split and the fact that the ♣Q comes down. One table was allowed to play 3♥. Go figure.

Quote for the month: "The saying is true, the empty vessel makes the loudest sound."
(William Shakespeare)