

# Pomona-Covina Unit News

## August 2023

**Individual:** August 5, 10 a.m., Upland

September 8, 10 a.m., Ontario

**Unit Game:** August 19, 11:00 a.m., Glendora\*

**Unit Board Meeting:** 10:15 a.m. before the game

**Club Championships:** August 15, 18

\* Yes, the Friendship center *still* is not available. Sigh. I guess someone is making a career out of it.

In the July Individual, Roger Boyar won with a nice 65.97% game. Stephen Andersen took second, Dan Robinson third, Dale Quasny fourth, followed by Art Weinstein, Clinton Lew, Susan Emminger, and Rosalie Roberts.

As you will note, we had quite a nice turnout! *However*, PLEASE note: in a regular Pairs game, the Director can easily add a pair that arrives after the game has started. This is NOT possible in an Individual game, unless we restart from the beginning. So please, if you plan to play, also plan to arrive early. That way, if you hit bad traffic, or construction, or something, you won't be disappointed.

And yes, the September Individual is delayed by one week. It's a holiday weekend ... and the Director isn't available on the normal day. Sigh!

Even though it's summer and we lost a week due to the Bridge Week regional, turnout was pretty good in July. Four games topped the magic 65% barrier. The top game was turned in by Vic Sartor and Eddie Rose, a whopping 74.66%-er in the STaC no less. (Another ½ matchpoint and they get their names in the ACBL Bulletin.) Other big games were turned in by Amr Elghamry – Lulu Minter (68.51%), Bill Papa – Vic Sartor (66.72%), and Gary Atwell – Steve Andersen (66.18%). Those were the only winners this month, partly due to the loss of two games due to Bridge Week and the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday.

In the July Unit Game, Tim and Eileen Finlay took top honors with a 59.51% game. They just edged out Fredy and Lulu Minter, who finished at 59.25%. Roger Boyar – Dan Robinson were next, followed by Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, Mary Miller – John Barrow, and Kiran Kumar – Susan Emminger.

Yet once again, we have one promotion to announce: Caryn Mason has advanced to NABC Master rank.

We had a nice turnout at the Bridge Week Regional in Long Beach. 19 players won a total of 189.46 masterpoints. At the top of the list we find Vic Sartor, who earned 39.76 points. He just edged out his frequent teammate at the tourney, Caryn Mason, who picked up 36.40. In a distant third place is Art Weinstein, with 16.96, not that that's actually *bad*! Rounding out the top five we have Yours Truly with 16.75, and Mary Ann Wotring, 15.23. Vic's total put him 38th on the masterpoint list for the tournament, not too shabby against all those pros roaming around.

Notable wins: the team of Vic Sartor, Caryn Mason, Mary Ann Wotring, and Art Weinstein won the TOP bracket of the Wednesday Bracketed Teams; and a team with Yours

Truly and three imports from District 22 won Bracket 4 (of 5) of the Saturday Bracketed Teams. (Well, I *suppose* you could say that *I* was the import ...)

If I missed anyone – well, there were over 600 players in the masterpoint list, and it's a very small font.

There's not much to report from the District Board-of-Directors' meeting. The venue chosen by the hotel was so horrible (the restaurant – with bad acoustics *and* a noisy waterfall) that the meeting was cut short after the election of officers and a couple of committee reports. It does appear, however, that attendance was up enough from last year's fiasco (more than 100 tables through Saturday) that the district will not go broke and there will be a tournament next year. However, there will be no tournament – at least not at the Long Beach Hilton – in either 2026 or 2028. The former, because the city of Long Beach is holding some sort of festival and the hotels are *already* booked, and the latter because of the Olympics. Sheesh.

Here are a couple of fun hands I picked up at the Regional. You won't learn anything from either one, I think, but they were SO much fun because I got a good result playing against the Cream of the Crop. (I was fighting out of my weight class in the Open Pairs.)

For the first hand, you are North, holding

♠ AJ1032 ♥ 5 ♦ A762 ♣ Q107.

Dealer, on my right, passed. Well, it's not much to be proud of, but it is a 6½ or 7 loser hand with two quick tricks AND a decent spade suit, so in a spirit of what-do-I-have-to-lose, I opened 1♠. The full auction was

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
pass	1♠	2♦	4♠
5♦	pass	pass	5♠
pass	pass	double	all pass

The opening lead was the ♦8, and I caught this dummy:

♠ KQ984 ♥ J9632 ♦ none ♣ A96.

With the ♣K on side, I easily wrapped up 11 tricks for +990; not an unusual score, but certainly not common when playing in a major suit! Oh, BTW, believe it or not, it was ... Board 12!!!!

The next hand was again played in the open pairs. (Yes, I am a glutton for punishment, it seems.) My LHO has more masterpoints than I have hairs on my head, and RHO was no amateur, either. Important to note, both sides are vulnerable. Dealer, East, passed, and partner opened 2♠. West gave the required pause (after the skip bid), and called 3♥. Well, I thought my birthday had come early, because I was looking at

♠ 5 ♥ KQJ53 ♦ Q98 ♣ KQ83.

Of course I did not double. For all I knew, the opponents could run to diamonds and perhaps go only one down. We scored +300, and as it turned out, the opponents can't make anything over 1♦. But the best part was during the play. When declarer led a trump from dummy and hooked the ♥10, I played a mean and sneaky ♥K. On the next trump lead from dummy, partner showed out, and declarer slowly turned and gave me a poker-faced stare. Oh, if looks could maim ... what fun! But this time it was *not* Board 12.

Quote for the month: “Statistics are like a bikini. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital.” (Aaron Levenstein)