

Pomona-Covina Unit  
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, December 20, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, December 6, LaVerne Site

This month's Unit game will feature our annual holiday celebration – food, cookies, Tom's Nuclear Powered Punch (both regular and unleaded), and other good stuff. Bring in your holiday baking to share, if you like. Five free plays for future unit games will be awarded.

Catching up on unfinished business from last month, the winners of the Annual Two-Session Unit game were Vic Sartor – Walt Otto. In second place after the morning session, they finished strongly in the afternoon to overtake Kirin and Anan Kumar, who finished second. In third place were Amr Elghamry – Shiu-Ming Huang, followed by Penny Barbieri – Tom Lill, and Dave and Susan Ruoff. Rounding out the top finishers were Linda Tessier – Sofie Kasubhai, finishing fourth in flight B.

In the November Unit Game, Vic Sartor – Genise Hasan took the top spot, followed by David and Susan Ruoff, Tom Lill and Linda Tessier, and Margaret Merritt – Kerry Sartor.

The November Individual was won by Clint Lew. Bob Kakade and Steve Mancini tied for second, followed Linda Tessier and Margie Hall.

Two promotions this month: Grant Zimmerman is now a Club Master, and Kiran Kumar is an NABC Master.

The top game this month was “only” 69.7% by Hanan Mogharbel and Don Naf. This just edged out the 69.0% achieved by Penny and Tom. Other first place finishers were Ann McClelland, Vic Sartor, Ken Bloomfield, Ron Purkis, Linda Tessier, Kurt Trieselmann, Lulu Minter, Fredy Minter, Genise Hasan, Roger Ginsburg, Roger Boyar, Hans Hehnke, Richard Patterson, Denise Morgan, Barbara Killebrew, Sofi Kasubai, and Amr Elghamry.

By the way, if you've been looking for the results of the three La Fetra Friday games held while Roger was goofing off, they can be found on the ACBL web site, under “club results.” Look for the Unit game section, not the La Fetra section.

We open this month's hand-of-the-month with an hors d'oeuvre. Defending 3NT, the opening leader chooses the ♣3. Down comes the dummy with ♣6542. After much amusement about the “good suit to be set up,” clubs turn out to be 4-3-3-3 around the table, and that ♣6 becomes a winner. The ninth trick, in fact. You never can tell ...

What are the chances of picking up an 8-card suit? About 1 in 214 ... better than you would guess. However, what are the chances of TWO 8-card suits facing one another? I'm not going to calculate the odds – probably they are better than 1 in 214 squared (about 1 in 45,000) but not too much better. Anyway, in a recent club game, this deal (produced by a more-or-less human being) popped up:

	♠ J72	
	♥ JT52	
	♦ 95	
	♣ JT43	
♠ 3		♠ KQT98654
♥ 73		♥ 98
♦ AQT86432		♦ none
♣ K5		♣ Q82
	♠ A	
	♥ AKQ64	
	♦ KJ7	
	♣ A976	

You've been looking at tram tickets all night, and then you pick up that nice South hand. Unfortunately, East is the dealer and elects to open 4♠ at favorable vulnerability. Arrrrrgh! Of course you double (for penalties, according to your agreements). West ponders a bit and calls ♦5. North and East have nothing further to say, and you double again. Around it goes again to East, who pulls to 5♠! Christmas seems to have come early this year and you double again. Down 2, 300 to North-South.

Notice that no one can make much of anything on this hand. You can make 3♥, and West can make all of 1♦, and North is just waiting to get to the next deal.

Quote for the month: "You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there." (Yogi Berra)

Until next month ...