

Pomona-Covina Unit News

December 2018

Unit Game: Saturday, December 8, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, December. 1, 9:30 a.m., Chino

That's right: because our December Unit game would fall during the Palm Springs Regional, we have advanced the date therefore to December 8 – one week earlier than normal. Mark your calendar!

The top finisher in the November Individual was Linda Tessier, at 62.5%. Margie Hall was second, just ½ matchpoint behind. Don Logsdon was third, Clint Lew fourth, and Sofi Kasubhai fifth.

The November Unit game was won by Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, with a 60.4% game. Hot on their heels in second we find Claudia Cochran - Hanan Mogharbel. Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson took third, with Barbara Papa – Kerry Sartor taking the fourth and final Overall award.

Only four pairs – and one Individual effort – reached the magic 65% mark this month. Hanan Mogharbel and Linda Stuart were tops with a 72.5% game. Next up were Hanan along with Richard Patterson at 70.0%. Third, we find Vic Sartor – Bill Papa at 67.94, Amr Elghamry – Lulu Minter with 65.63. In an Individual effort, Roger Boyar scored 71.4% a Cochran, Don Logsdon, Linda Stuart, and Sue Aspley.

Other winners include Linda Ananea, Genise Hasan, Herb Stampfl, Lulu and Fredy Minter, Linda Tessier, Sofi Kasubhai, and Claudia Cochran.

Lots of masterpoint earners this month, but no one really dominated. Hanan Mogharbel tops the list at 5.56. Vic Sartor tied with Bill Papa for second, 4.87. Richard Patterson was fourth with 4.77; and Roger Boyar was fifth with 4.66.

Two promotions to report: Stephen Dorse III is now a Regional Master, and Shariq Raza has now reached the dizzying (at least, from Yours Truly's perspective) height of Gold Life Master. Congratulations, Stephen and Shariq.

For our Hand-of-the-Month, we leave the “bit-of-fun” format for a while, and present a challenge. Can you get to the making Grand on these hands? North deals, there is no opposition bidding.

(North) ♠ J762 ♥ AQ103 ♦ AQ9 ♣ 86

(South) ♠ AQ10 ♥ K9 ♦ K2 ♣ AKQ1054

A typical SA sequence might be: 1♦ – 2♣; 2NT – 6NT. If 2♣ is game forcing, then it might go 1♦ – 2♣; 2♥ – 3♣; 4♣ – 4NT; 5♥ – 7NT. Maybe! It does require a 3-2 club break (clubs were in fact 3-2) to pull in 13 tricks. On a heart lead, you have 14 on top; if you like, you could take the spade hook for a 15th trick. (The spade finesse loses, of course.) In action, only one pair got to 7NT, on this auction: 1♦ – 4NT; 5♥ (2 key cards + ♦Q) – 7NT. Well, it's semi-scientific! Still a bit of a pot, though. Suppose opener's hand had been:

♠ K962 ♥ A1093 ♦ AQ92 ♣ 6?

A perfectly respectable 1♦ opening bid. But, now you have 3 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds, and 3 clubs on top ... 11 tricks. You'll need some luck to bring in 13 tricks – either 3-3 clubs, or a good guess and a favorable lie in the either red suit. Oh well!

Quote for the month: “Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.”
(Albert Einstein)