

Pomona-Covina Unit News

December 2019

Unit Game: Saturday December 21,
11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, December 7, Chino

Some good news: Your *hard working* Club Manager actually uploaded all the October club games to the new ACBL-Live-For-Clubs site, earning us an Upgraded Club Championship. That pays considerably better masterpoints than a regular club game. As of this writing, the game hasn't been scheduled – I'll try to schedule it for a date when we expect a good turnout. Check the Unit web site. I'll also send out a special Bridge Alert announcing the date. You don't get the Bridge Alerts? WHY NOT? All ya gotta do is ask, and you'll get them. Whom do you ask? Hint: whose picture is at the head of this article?

Because of the year-end holidays, the La Fetra Center will be closed December 24-25 and December 31-January 1. So while there will be the regularly scheduled Thursday-Friday games those two weeks, the Tuesday games are cancelled. Sorry about that.

The November Unit game was one of our largest in recent history – thanks to the participation by some District 23 Board-of-Director members. Needless to say, it was a pretty strong field! The winners were Bob Shore – Kent Hartman, who scored 59.72%. Only one matchpoint behind were Mitch Dunitz – Marta Monheim. In third place were Peter Benjamin – Jordan Chodorow, followed by Joe Viola – Amr Elghamry. Ho Ming Yim – Phil Savage tied with Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin for the top spot in flight B.

I promised to report the masterpoint totals for October. (BTW, my trip along the Danube / Main / Rhine Rivers was absolutely *fabulous*. Thanks for asking.) Attendance was good that month, and with the club appreciation games, the points really flowed. 46 players won 117.56 points. Topping the list we find Roger Boyar, at 12.80. Next was Fredy Minter, 8.64; Hanan Mogharbel, 7.52; Lulu Minter, 6.72; and rounding out the top five, Claudia Cochran, 6.47.

45 players won points in November, but nobody won very much. Partly due to the Thanksgiving holiday, and partly due to the STaC, not too many black points were given out. Only 56.54! Topping the list was Kurt Trieselmann, with 2.44. Next, Roger Boyar, 2.01; Bill Papa and Vic Sartor, with 1.90 each; and Fredy and Lulu Minter, with 1.88 each.

The top game in November was by Claudia Cochran – Esther Johnson, 70.00%. Bill Papa – Vic Sartor beat the 65% mark twice, with 67.57% and 65.83%. Fredy and Lulu Minter scored 69.00%.

Other winners: Roger Boyar, Steve Mancini, Marjorie Preston, Margie Hall, Linda Ananea, John Barrow, Mary Miller, Linda Tessier, David Ochroch, Karen McCarthy, Penny Barbieri, and Your Correspondent.

No promotions to report. What with the Rancho Mirage Regional taking place this month, there will no doubt be some next time.

The 2018-19 Individual Championship results have (finally) been tabulated. The way it works is, we take your best six results (you must play half the games to qualify) and compute a

weighted average. Simple! 12 players qualified for the Championship. Once again, Clint Lew dominated the field. The top five:

1. Clint Lew 60.1%
2. Linda Tessier 57.8%
3. Tom Lill 56.7%
4. Gino Barbieri 54.6%
5. Richard Patterson 54.1%

All I can say is ... wait until next year!

However ... there may not *be* a “next year.” Sad to relate, attendance at the monthly game has been slowly, but surely, falling off. We’re on the edge of not being able to hold the game at all. It doesn’t seem to be a financial thing – the entry fee is only \$3 at most. But we need more players. So here’s an offer you *can* refuse ... but I hope you do not. Come on out and give it a try. Know some party bridgers who think duplicate is “too tough” or “too unfriendly?” Bring one along to the December game. You’ll both play free, and the newbie will get perks if he/she keeps on coming. Best offer I can make. Same offer applies if *you* have never tried our Individual: play free in December. How can you lose?

No doubt, some of you noticed that last month’s Hand-of-the-Month was a card short. Sorry! Put the ♦9 in there, please. At least I did give the shape, so you knew approximately what was wrong.

Some months, you can’t pick up an interesting hand for love nor money. Just cold games, flat hands, blah. And then there was a memorable night in November. The hardest part is to limit our Hand-of-the-Month discourse, choosing among no fewer than five grotesque hands that appeared in ONE session.

First, let’s look at one of the worst hands ever dealt. Sitting East, no one vulnerable, you see partner open 1NT while you stare at this *fine* collection:

♠ 86432 ♥ 84 ♦ 872 ♣ 853.

At the table, East transferred to spades, and 2♠ became the final contract. Down five, when North turned up with ♠AKJ965! In fact, one N-S pair was +140 in a spade partial! Oh ... I neglected to mention that East’s transfer was perhaps misguided: North had doubled the 1NT contract, showing an unspecified 6-card suit! So East might have relaxed and passed. Of course, if West has three or four good spades, down only 1 or 2 will be a good save against North-South’s +140. (North’s suit was hearts, and nine tricks are available in that suit, also.)

We’ll briefly visit two more deals.

Now, nine card suits don’t grow on trees, and after partner’s opening bid of 1♠, you have a decision to make holding:

♠ none ♥ A95 ♦ Q109875432 ♣ Q.

That’s right, 12 red cards. Whatever you do, you won’t like it. LHO has the other four diamonds – ♦AKJ6 – and your diamond contract will be punished badly.

Finally, a bit later, you pick up:

♠ AKJ96 ♥ none ♦ 3 ♣ KJ86432.

That's right, this time you have 12 *black* cards! You open 1♠, LHO calls 2♥, partner raises to 2♠, RHO goes 3♥, and you ... well, you have little defense against hearts, and prospects of setting up the clubs. So let's try 4♠. This is doubled on your left (uh-oh), and the ♣10 is lead. You catch this dummy:

♠ 87426 ♥ A8642 ♦ 102 ♣ Q7.

Of course, all four missing spades (♠Q1053) are behind you, the ♣A is on your right, and you lose a diamond, a heart, the ♣A, and *three* trump tricks. And, because of the foul heart split, 4♥ goes down.

The dealing gremlins were out in force that night!

Quote for the month: "I respect faith, but doubt is what gets you an education." (Wilson Mizner)