

## Pomona-Covina Unit News

December 2020

Individual: Saturday, Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m., Upland

In the November Individual, Stephen Andersen headed the field with a nice 61.4% game, Clint Lew placed second, Roger Boyar tied with Mary Ann Wotring for third, and Linda Tessier rounded out the top five.

Note, we have a new venue for the Individual, in Upland. It's the home of Rose Roberts, 2501 Euclid Crescent East, in Upland. It's a bit tricky to find, whoever planned the roads up there was apparently having a serious conversation with Jack Daniels (or equivalent) at the time.

The Chino location is no longer available for the Individual – I'm pretty sure the new owners would be rather surprised (to say the least) if a bunch of bridge players descended on them one fine Saturday morning.

Well, back to there being no promotions in the previous month.

And, the Unit game is still on hiatus.

By the way, I have to wonder, is anyone out there reading my deathless prose? I ask, because over a week ago, I sent out a "Bridge Alert" announcing my new email, and requesting receivers thereof to re-up by replying to the new address. Not one response so far. Sigh. If you want to stay on – or join for the first time – the Bridge Alert mailing list, please send an email to me at thomasmlill8@gmail.com.

Again, this month, it was tough to come up with a good Hand-of-the-Month. Lots of fun hands, but nothing truly phenomenal (read that "weird"). So, I'll improvise by showing how important hand valuation – and also luck – can be. This hand was held by my partner:

♠ K J   ♥ A 6   ♦ A J 9 8   ♣ K 10 8 5 3.

She opened 1♣, eschewing the off-shape 1NT bid. I responded 1♥. The opponents were mercifully silent, for a change. Well – your rebid? Yes, counting the long club, it's a 17 count, but the tight spade honors are a defect. But really, the only choice is a reverse into 2♦, right? If that's the sequence you chose, then your partner (me, in this case) rejoiced, and holding

♠ A 10 8 7   ♥ K Q 8 3   ♦ K 4   ♣ A J 9

made the obvious bid of 6NT. After a spade lead, and with the ♣Q on side, all 13 tricks roll home. Except for one unfortunate opposing pair who went for sticks-and-wheels (1100) in 2♦X, you got a tie for top. Thank you, partner. Of course, if she does open an off-shape 1NT, you will still get to 6NT, but then you don't have the fun of playing the hand. In fact, quite often the hand was played by partner, in which case 13 tricks will be more difficult because you won't get a spade lead from ♠Qxx.

For your amusement – and my pleasure (hey, I gotta get something out of writing this column!) – here's another little lesson on "never give up." Playing in the 0-1000 PPDVBC game recently, my partnership (with my help) got just over 4% on the first two boards, playing against a friend. We took some good-natured ribbing for that. But justice was served when we edged that pair out (it was a 7 table Howell movement) by 0.09% for first place. NEVER give up!

BTW, if you're tired of seeing me blow my own horn in these hands, and run across an interesting hand, send it to me and I'll write it up. See your name in print!

Quote for the month: "Americans generally do the right thing, after first exhausting all the available alternatives." (Winston Churchill)