

Pomona-Covina Unit News

December 2021

Individual: December 4, 10:00 a.m., Upland

January 8, 10:00, TBD

STaC: December 7, 10 (La Fetra)

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

Upgraded Club Championship: Friday, December 3

No Game: Friday, December 24; Friday, December 31 (La Fetra is closed for the year-end holidays.)

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

Because of all the disruptions in December – between Club Championships, STaC games, the Palm Springs regional, and the year-end holidays – we won't be running team games this month. But we hope to resume them in January.

No promotions to report this month.

Winner of the November Individual was Stephen Andersen, with a 57.95% game. He just edged out Paul Chrisney, by ½ match point. Kurt Trieselmann took third – again just ½ match point behind second – and Kathleen Malovos – Yours Truly tied for fourth – once again, ½ match point behind. Talk about competitive!

In the November Unit game, Bill Papa – Vic Sartor's 69.91% game buried the rest of the field. Sheesh. Tim and Eileen Finlay took second, Kurt Trieselmann – Paul Chrisney were third, Fredy Minter – Amr Elghamry fourth, and Karen McCarthy – Karen Olin rounded out the leader board by placing 3rd in flight B. The rest of us got a “nice try.”

Winners at La Fetra in November were led by Caryn Mason – Mary Ann Wotring, who posted a fine 67.71% score. Other winners were Lulu Minter, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Fredy Minter, and Roger Boyar.

The October team games were won by the team of Roger Boyar, Hanan Mogharbel, Steve Mancini, and Yours Truly. We actually tied in wins with 3, but eked out the win by 1 VP. The other winning team consisted of Tim and Eileen Finlay, Vic Sartor, and Mary Ann Wotring. They also tied another team in wins (2) but their wins were both blowouts, so ...

More bad news on the tournament front. While plans for our own Bridge Week Regional in Long Beach are moving forwards (I've seen the preliminary tournament flyer), District 22 has cancelled their Winter Regional (Costa Mesa). Apparently, their 2020 Winter Regional barely met its hotel commitments, and noting that F2F play is way down right now, they decided they could not afford the risk of a huge financial hit. Worse, the host hotel also forced them to cancel the September regional as part of the package. But they are looking around for another host.

Ever feel like you are stuck in a rut ... stuck in a rut ... stuck in a rut? Ever fell ... OK, here's an amusing hand I held last month. As usual, it's one of those semi-balanced hands that seem to crop up so often. And we play hand-dealt cards, too! I'll show you my hand and the auction at my table, first. I held the North cards as dealer, no one vulnerable:

♠ Q ♥ A K J 9 8 5 ♦ A 10 7 6 3 2 ♣ none

A normal enough 1♥ opening bid, right? LHO overcalled 2♣, partner chimed in with a 2♥ raise. Now the fun begins! RHO called 3♥, an “unassuming cue bid” showing limit raise or

better values in clubs. He also told me after the play was over that he wanted to stop me from bidding 3♥. Well, I replied that once partner raised, I was never ever bidding less than 4♥, damn the torpedoes. After all – where are all the black cards? Seemed normal enough to me! LHO, who admitted later he had misinterpreted the 3♥ bid as asking for a heart stopper, doubled. (He had ♥Q42). Partner passed, and RHO went deep into the tank before passing. The opening lead was the ♦4, and when dummy came down, I thought Christmas had come early:

♠ 10 8 7 3 2 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ Q J 5 ♣ Q 9

Partner apologized for making such a skinny raise, but those diamonds were pure gold! LHO had led a singleton, so making 5. If he tries to cash his ♠AK, I cannot pick up the ♦K but still make 4. At some other tables, E-W pushed on to 5♣, which makes. The N-S pairs in 5♥, not being blessed with a favorable lead, went one down. Luck – don't leave home without it!

You can keep hoping I'll have an interesting 4-4-3-2 hand to report, some day. But don't hold your breath.

I *do* of course have another one of those entertaining semi-balanced hands for you ... but you get a break this time. Let's try an opening lead problem. You, South, hold this hand:

♠ 9 7 6 3 2 ♥ 10 ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ A Q 9 8

Your side does not enter the auction. RHO deals and opens 1♦, responder goes 1♥, then the auction proceeds 2♣ – 2♠ (4SF), 2NT – 3NT. And you have to lead!

Well, it would seem we can eliminate all four suits. But since this is BBO, we can't even hope partner will lead out of turn and have it accepted. Sigh. Clubs and diamonds are Right Out. Spades are out – let declarer take her own finesses, should they be needed. Hearts? Well, that's all that's left. Lead a singleton? Horrors!!! But wait! East has shown 9 (or more) cards in the minors, and 2 or 3 spades. Why not a stiff spade? Because then she'd have 3 hearts and would likely rebid 3♥ rather than 2NT. So, E-W probably have 7 hearts between them, you have 1. Partner has at least 5, and should have a few high cards. So a heart it is. Partner's hand:

♠ K 10 8 4 ♥ J 5 4 3 2 ♦ 4 ♣ K 10 3.

Well, how were *you* to know partner's hearts were Jack high, and the rest pipsqueaks?

Anyway, dummy actually had ♥AKQxxx, declarer a singleton. They also had 9 diamonds. Unfortunately for declarer but luckily for your side, when declarer saw the bad heart split, she played to drop the ♦Q. When that failed the hand collapsed and 3NT went down 2. With declarer holding ♠AQJ, if she guesses the diamonds, she makes 11 tricks. Luck – don't leave home without it!

Unfortunately, the bridge gods paid us back right away, showering a 35% game on us.

Quote for the month: "Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." (Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949.)