

# Pomona-Covina Unit News

## December 2022

**Individual:** December 3, 10 a.m., Upland  
January 7, 10 a.m., Ontario

**Rainbow STaC:** December 6 and 9, La Fetra

**Club Championships:** November 29 Dec 2, La Fetra

**Unit Game:** December 10, 11:00 a.m., Glendora (Rainbow STaC)

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

Yes, the Unit game is a week early this month. That's because a significant number of our players (including the Director) are planning to be at the Palm Springs Regional on the 17th, which would normally be the game date. It will be our usual Christmas bash; we'll have Chili, punch (regular and unleaded), some trimmings, and even a bridge game. Come one, come all, naughty or nice. The game will be a Rainbow STaC, paying 25% each: black, silver, red and gold points.

The games at La Fetra on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> will also be Rainbow STaC games.

**Remember:** La Fetra will be closed on Friday, **December 23**, and also on Friday, **December 30**, in observance of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. There will be no game held on either day.

The Individual this month will be an Upgraded Club Championship – extra points, no extra fee.

In the November Individual, Yours Truly had the Bridge Gods smile upon him, posting the win with a 69.32% effort. A visitor from afar (well, Fullerton), Thomas Cusack, was next. Kiran Kumar and Roger Boyar tied for third; Peter Kavounas was fifth.

There were four big games turned in in November, three of them by Fredy and Lulu Minter: 75.19% (!), 69.64%, and 67.64%. Vic Sartor and Mary Ann Wotring scored 68.75%. Other winners were Kathy Malovos, Marjorie Preston, Caryn Mason, and Patrick Finley, Hanan Mogharbel, and Yours Truly.

In the November Unit game, Tim and Eileen Finlay took top honors, with 62.5%, Hanan Mogharbel carried Yours Truly to second place.

The limited number of places that paid in last month's game gives you an idea of how low the turnout was. Yes, this is the holiday season, but, gosh, folks, where are all of you? It's discouraging to do all the setup work to bring you all a nice game, and then have only a few tables show. Hardly worth the effort! If you want to see our Unit game continue, please drop on in once in a while – no reservation needed! If you have never, ever played in one of our Unit games – give it a try for FREE the first time. I think you will be pleased ... and all for the low, low price of \$7 per person.

We have one rank advancement this month. Patrick Finley is now a Club Master – good job, Patrick, keep up the good work.

Here's a hand from our Chamber of Horrors. Picked up during an ordinary club game, it features the second worst long suit I have ever held:

♠ 8765432 ♥ none ♦ J73x ♣ 52.

That's right – a seven card straight flush headed by the *eight*. What was the *worst* long suit I ever held? For that, I have to go back to the Dinosaur Age, i.e, my college days. I held a NINE card suit headed by J9 ... and no other honors. Of course the rest of the hand, all four cards of it, are long forgotten. I vaguely do seem to recall that everyone had a long suit (no surprise there!) and that the opponents had both the majors and about 18 cold tricks.

And here's another one for you: you, the dealer, pick up this hand with neither side vulnerable:

♠ KJ10764 ♥ none ♦ AQ10985 ♣ 8.

Not *quite* a “Hastings” – that would require specifically 1=0=6=6 shape – but close enough. I would hope you open this hand 1♠. The auction proceeds with 2♥ on your left, pass from partner (so what else is new), 3♥ from RHO. I figured WTH, little if any defense here, good playing strength, so 4♦. Pass, 4♠, all pass. Dummy came down with

♠ 82 ♥ J10964 ♦ 72x ♣ A1063.

Alas, alack, with partner holding those nice trumps, 3♥ would have been down one. 4♠ also went down one. The *infuriating* thing is that if I peek at LHO's hand, I can make it! She had the trump Ace bare! Or it would also make if trumps were 3-2 and I could guess the suit correctly. Ah, well.

At the other table, the opponents played 3NT (!) which also went down 1.

Quote for the month: “They're not going to have a Nativity scene in Washington, D.C. again this year. No, it's not a Constitutional issue. They just can't find three wise men and a virgin.” (Jay Leno)