

Pomona-Covina Unit News

December 2024

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45

Individual: February 1, 10 a.m., Ontario

Unit Game: January 11 and 18, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

NO UNIT GAME IN DECEMBER

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

In the November Individual, the winner was Clint Lew, scoring 63.64%. Close behind in second was Tom Cusack; tying for third were Helen Wang and Dabid Ochroch. In December (I dunno, somehow I got a month behind here!), Ramona Hernandez tied with Yours Truly at 59.52%. Linda Tessier was third.

In the November Unit Game, Fredy and Lulu Minter's 58.85% edged out Karen McCarthy and Karen Olin by just 0.06 matchpoint. Tim and Eileen Finlay were next, followed by Steve Mancini – Helen Wang, and Carl Silsbee – Peter Kavounas.

Promotions: Patrick Finley is now a Sectional Master; Barbara Andryjowicz is a Regional Master, and Peter Kavounas has advanced to NABC Master. Congratulations to the three of you, and keep up the good play!

Only one pair managed to crack the 65% barrier in November: Fredy and Lulu Minter just squeaked by with a 65.93% effort. With several lost games due to remodeling at our playing facility, there weren't really too many winners last month. The others topping the leader board were Mary Ann Wotring, Caryn Mason, Patrick Finley, John Jones, and Vic Sartor.

While there were several bizarre hands recently, here's one that I found amusing. I'll show the whole hand:

	North	
	♠ K 8 4	
	♥ 8 6 3	
	♦ A 8 7 5 2	
	♣ 9 6	
West		East
♠ Q 10 3 2		♠ A J 9 5
♥ void		♥ A J 10 5
♦ K 10 9 7 5		♦ void
♣ K J 10 4		♣ Q 8 7 5 3
	South	
	♠ 8 7 5	
	♥ K Q 9 7 4 2	
	♦ Q 6 4	
	♣ A 2	

North dealt, with only E-W vulnerable (I sat East). After North passed, I opened 1♣, and South butted in (as usual) with 2♥. Partner made a negative double. North raised to 3♥, and over to you ... or me ... or, oh, let's go on. I figured, what the what, even though I have only 12 HCP, and five of them are in LHO's suit, with partner showing spades and enough values to bid at the three level, I went 4♠, which became the final contract. The opening lead (big surprise here) was the ♥K. Now what?

I suppose the natural inclination is to win that ♥A in hand. But I said to myself, "Self, whaddaya gonna discard from dummy? And what if trumps don't behave?" No discard seems helpful, so I ruffed. Trumps behaved (for a change!) and when I forced out the ♣A, it was natural for South to place partner with the ♥A, and out came the ♥Q. Making 6, since I got three discards for losing diamonds. That's five trump tricks, three hearts, and four clubs. 12 tricks on an effective combined 18-count, the ♦K never entering the picture.

Ahhhh, the magic of shape!

Quote for the month: "One trouble with trouble is that it usually starts out as fun."
(Ann Landers)