

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, February 28, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, February 7, LaVerne Site

We start this month off with an apology. In the listing of NAP qualifiers for the final, we inadvertently omitted the name of Bridgit O’Sullivan. Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa.

The December Unit game was won by Paul Chrisney - Ann McClelland, followed by Vic Sartor - Hans Hehnke, Fredy Minter - Lulu Minter, and Timothy Finlay - Eileen Finlay.

The January Unit game was won by Anand and Kiran Kumar. Fredy and Lu Minter took second, Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore placed third, Richard Patterson - Roger Boyar fourth, and Pat Radamaker – Clint Lew rounded out the top five.

The January Individual was won by Your Correspondent, followed by Carolyn Siracuse, Bob Kakade, Richard Patterson, and Claudia Cochran.

No promotions this month. Oh well, except for the Palm Springs regional, not a lot of action in December. Too much holiday spirit? (No, an oxymoron, there.)

The top game this month was a 71.3% effort by Walt Otto and Clint Lew. Lots of other names also graced the leader board: Penny Barbieri, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Hanan Mogharbel, Charlotte Capelle, Roger Boyar, Richard Patterson, Mary Miller, John Barrow, Roger Ginsburg, Lynn Parker (visiting from the frozen wastes), Don Logsdon, Lois Snowden, Barbara Killebrew, Billie Steiner, and Carolyn Siracuse (ironically, from Buffalo).

Fittingly (or so it seems to our warped sense of humor) for the New Year, our hand-of-the-month returns to the “why me?” theme. These two gems both popped up in the same session. As dealer, you find yourself holding:

♠ AKT764 ♥ K ♦ K ♣ JT932.

Hmmm, not often you hold two stiff Kings, and neither of them the club King. You open 1♠, and somewhat disappointingly it goes pass – pass – 2♥. OK, so you climb back in with 2♠. Pass, pass, 3♥. Grrrr. OK, you can take a joke, so now you show your club suit. And then it gets ugly, because, suffering a senior moment, you call 3♣. LHO inexplicitly condones the call, partner corrects to 3♠, and RHO ends a frustrating auction with 4♥.

Oh well, it could be worse. You rate to take a spade trick, both kings are probably behind the aces, and partner might just come up with something useful. You lead the A♠, and dummy comes down with scattered stuff including a singleton heart. Great! Now declarer can take the trump finesse! Unfortunately for you, although partner does have something useful – namely the A♦ - declarer, missing five trumps to the king, eschews the finesse and plays to the ace! Making 4. Declarer’s hand?

♠ 2 ♥ AQJT974 ♦ Q865 ♣ 6.

Dummy had running clubs so away went some diamond losers. There ain't no justice!

Our other exhibit just adds insult to the above injury. A few rounds later, you find yourself looking at one of the *finest* hands you've ever picked up:

♠ 832 ♥ 874 ♦ T953 ♣ 743.

No points, no shape, and you can't even complain about holding a Yarborough with that stupid 10 staring you in the face. Oh well. (For the record ... it was board 12. What else is new?)

With Valentine's Day looming, our quote for the month is right on target: "Brevity is the soul of lingerie." (Dorothy Parker)

Until next month ...