

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

“Unit” Game – Saturday, February 18, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, February 4, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

Once again, our “Unit” game this month will be a club game – no word yet on how things are developing in Horn Lake regarding the uncalled-for increase in Unit game sanction fees.

In the January Unit game, Amr Elghamry - Joe Viola were the winners, followed by Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson, Vic and Kerry Sartor, and Penny Barbieri - Rosalie Roberts.

In the January Individual, Al Lax took the top spot. Trailing him (but not by TOO much) were Yours Truly, Penny Barbieri, Sandy Jones, Gino Barbieri, and Sofi Kasubhai, who took first in flight C also.

The top score this month was an unbelievable 85.8% monster posted by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa. This put to shame Lulu and Fredy Minter’s 75.2% game. In one of Phillip and Robert King’s pastiches (“Who Framed Rueful Rabbit?,” if you must know), Oscar the Owl noted that “In an event for backward five-year-olds who had learned to play that morning, you might manage a score in the mid-eighties ...” That doesn’t reflect too well on the rest of us, does it? Oh well. Among the mortal players, the winners were Walt Otto, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Karen McCarthy, Karen Olin, Gayle Ginsburg, Rita Stachniak, and Bridget O’Sullivan.

Only one promotion to report this month: Paule Ford is now an NABC Master. Surely, with our winter Regional coming up, there will be more to report next month.

Speaking of which (Regionals, I mean), the District is still looking of a photographer to document the winners at our tournaments. The present holder of the job is getting rather tired of being a temporary replacement ... after 18 months on the job. You’d like to do it, but don’t plan to spend the whole week at the tourney? It hasn’t been discussed with the tournament committee, but there’s no reason to suppose the photographer duties could not be handled by more than one person. (One per day, of course.) Get in touch with us if interested, *please*. (Hint hint – guess who the present photographer is?)

This month’s Hand-of-the-Month isn’t quite the freak we presented last month, but it still has its points of interest ... if you are fond of rub-of-the-green deals.

Second in hand, you have long diamonds to the QJ, and both pointed-suit Aces. You open the bidding 1♦, and the following auction ensues:

RHO	You	LHO	Pard
pass	1♦	2NT ¹	pass ²
4♣	4♦	6♣	all pass

- (1) Hearts and Clubs
- (2) Partner never does what you want

Your lead?

If you opened the ♦A, congratulations. Dummy comes down with

♠ none ♥ AKT9x ♦ Kx ♣ AQTxxx

and partner is sitting there with ♣KJ (doubleton). Down one. On the other hand, if you opened the ♠A, the slam makes, because declarer's Diamonds eventually go away on the Hearts. Declarer had five little Clubs for his jump to 4♣, by the way.

Quote for the Month: "Kites rise highest against the wind --- not with it." (Winston Churchill)

Until next month ...