

Pomona-Covina Unit News

February 2018

Unit Game: Saturday February 16, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, February 9, 9:30 a.m., Claremont

The top finisher in the January Individual was Clint Lew, with a 60.41% effort. Gino Barbieri, Margie Hall, Susie Emminger, Richard Patterson, and All Lax rounded out the leader board.

The January Unit game was won by Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, with a 58.9% game. A close race! Right behind them we find Amr Elghamry - Joe Viola, Linda Tessier - Clint Lew, Tim and Eileen Finlay, and Karen Olin - Karen McCarthy .

Attendance picked up in January, now that the end-of-year festivities are over and things are back to (what passes for) normal. Three pairs reached the magic 65% mark this month. Bill Papa – Vic Sartor had a monstrous 75.67% game. The others were Don Logsdon – Roger Boyar with 66.5%, and Clint Lew – Lina Tessier just sneaking in with 65% on the nose.

Other winners were, Penny Barbieri, Claudia Cochran, Richard Patterson, David Ochroch, Amr Elghamry, and Yours Truly.

The Riverside Regional is still in progress as we go to press, but there have already been some notable performances. David Ochroch's team has reached the semifinal match of a KO; Linda Tessier (partnered by Guess Who) took a section top and a 9th place finish in a Gold Rush; and Sofi Kasubhai, Wendy Wanderman, and Bridget O'Sullivan all finished in the money in a Gold Rush. More next month!

36 players won club-level masterpoints in December. Easily outdistancing the rest was Clint Lew, with 7.59. Next were Linda Tessier, 5.28; Roger Boyar, with 3.93; and Bill Papa and Vic Sartor, both with 3.49.

No official promotions to report this month. However, Linda Tessier's effort in Riverside will push her up to NABC Master status. Nice going, Linda.

For our Hand-of-the-Month, we revisit the "Why Me?" school. The Distribution Demons have been out in force this session; with one round still to go after this one, you've already seen two 7-4-1-1 hands, and a 6-4-3-0 hand (not one of which you declared, since your long suits are always minors). Facing one of the strongest pairs in the room, you find yourself staring at this stellar collection:

♠7 ♥109652 ♦1098742 ♣4.

Partner, the dealer, starts the festivities by opening 1♠. Oh, joy! RHO calls 2♥, which relieves your depression somewhat. Pass, pass, and partner bids ... 3♣, what else? *Now* what do you do? Speaking of rocks and hard places

You might take a preference to 3♠ (well, partner *could* be 6-5, and you hope so). You could pass 3♣ and hope she's 6-6. Or you could bid 3♦, and hope partner gets the message that you hate both her suits.

At the table, Your Correspondent tried 3♠, which seemed to excite partner, as she raised herself to 4. Oh-oh. Double (it would have been a stand-up double at rubber bridge), and you go for sticks-and-wheels. (That's 1100, if imagination has failed you briefly.)

If you guessed to bid 3♦ – and partner passed –you might have gotten lucky. Partner was 5=1=2=5, holding ♦Kx. (Diamonds break 3-2.) No one else appears to have done that, though. Two pairs managed to play 3♣ – undoubled! – only going for -200. One opposing pair actually went +140, probably making 3♥ in their 5-2 fit. No one else made anything.

And which board was this? Board 13 ... what else?

Quote for the month: "Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn"
(Benjamin Franklin)