

Pomona-Covina Unit News

February 2020

Unit Game: Saturday February 15,
11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, February 1, Claremont

The January Individual was a romp by Clint Lew, at 72.92%. Linda Stuart was second, Roger Boyar third, and Yours Truly was fourth. Sofi Kasubhai and Gino Barbieri were 1-2 in flight C.

The January Unit game was won by Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, with a 69.84% game. Next up were Tim and Eileen Finlay, followed by Lulu Minter – Robert Gish, Joe Viola – Amr Elghamry, and Avice Osmundson – Kiran Kumar.

Now that the year-end festivities are over, attendance has picked up a bit. 48 players won 137.37 points in January – nearly double December's total. Ahead of the rest we find Clint Lew with 12.96 points. Linda Tessier was second with 11.82. Vic Sartor and Bill Papa tied for third, with 10.21. Next up was, 6.16; and rounding out the top five is Lulu Minter, with 7.86.

The top game in January was a killer 77.5% game by Kurt Triselmann – Paul Chrisney. In that *same game*, second place was 67.5%, by Linda Stuart – Yours Truly. I suppose it would cheapen things if I told you that was a 2½ table game, so I won't. Others above the 65% mark, were Bill Papa – Vic Sartor (68.75%); Herb Stampfl – Ho Ming Yim (70.0%); Hanan Mogharbel – Linda Stuart (68.06%); Fredy and Lulu Minter, who did it twice: 67.66%, and 65.63%; and finally, Amr Elghamry - Dominique Moore, sneaking over the bar with 65.14%.

Other winners: Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Claudia Cochran, Joe Unis, Tim and Eileen Finlay, and Yours Truly.

One promotion this month. Stephen Andersen is now a Junior Master. (Really, the ACBL ought to rethink some of these rank titles, don't you think? Not that Stephen is ancient or anything ... but he's been out of grade school a long time ... as have most of us!)

There haven't been that many really interesting hands the past month. Well, there were two boards a couple of days ago where West first picked up a 5-4-3-1 19-count, saw partner open the bidding (!), and drove to 6NT, making 7 when the opponents ducked the ♠A. Well, it was perhaps a reasonable play, given ♠KJ109xx were visible in dummy, and declarer playing the ♠Q. On the very next hand, West picked up a balanced 21-count (feast or famine that day!), opened the usual 2NT, and partner went straight to 6NT. Unfortunately, there were only 15 top tricks available. But the play of both hands was routine, essentially a claim at trick 3 on the first hand, and trick 1 on the second.

Anyway, for our ***real*** Hand-of-the-Month, I will resurrect a somewhat interesting hand, from memory, as I failed to record this beauty at the time. As dealer, playing matchpoints, you find yourself looking at

♠ xx ♥ x ♦ AKQJ10xxx ♣ xx.

Neither side is vulnerable. What's your opening bid?

Those who took the mainstream approach of bidding 3♦ or perhaps 4♦ were doomed to disappointment. Partner's hand turns out to be pretty useless to you, and you take eight diamond tricks and no more. So sad. Too bad!

I, however, being something of an iconoclast (or perhaps too dumb to know any better?) decided to open 1♦, then keep bidding diamonds until the cows came home. The auction proceeded 1♥ on my left, double (negative) from partner, 2♥ from RHO ... and 3♥ from me! Well, I *was* prepared to go 4♦ if partner didn't have a heart stopper. He did, he bid 3NT, and wrapped up 9 tricks on the expected heart lead. (He had ♥Kxx, as it turns out.) I shudder to think what the score might have been had (a) partner not had even one diamond (he did), OR (b) the opponent had not led a heart. Better lucky than good!

Quote for the month: "A heretic is a fellow who disagrees with you regarding something neither of you knows anything about." (William Cowper Brann)