

Pomona-Covina Unit News

February 2025

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45

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

Club Championships: February 18, 21, La Fetra

Unit Game: February 15, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

STaC: March 11, 14, La Fetra

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

The December (yes, not having published in January really put us behind!) Individual was captured by both Ramona Hernandez and Yours Truly – a tie at 59.52%. Linda Tessier took third.

We didn't hold a January Individual game; Your Favorite (I hope) Director was on the way back from an excursion. Bucket-list trip, don't you know?

Peter Kavounas won the February Individual with a 61.46 game. Yours Truly was second, Linda Tessier third, Steve Andersen fourth, John Jones fifth (yes we had a good turnout!), and Nony Bernal sixth.

We also did not hold a Unit game in December, due to conflicts with Rancho Mirage, Pasadena, and the Christmas holiday. In the January Unit Team Game (YES – we are trying this on for size – if it's popular enough, we'll do it more often), The winners were Steve Anderson, Gary Atwell, Kiran Kumar, and Woody Woodman. They posted 5½ wins and 107 Victory Points. Second, with 5 wins and 98 VPs we find John Jones, Tom Reynolds, Roger Boyar, and Dale Quasny. Also with 5½ wins but only 90 VPs, the team of Bill Papa, Peter Kavounas, Kitty Moon, and Tom Cusack, took third. Finally, the team of Tim and Eileen Finlay, Nona Stokes, and Ramona Hernandez took home first place in Flight C. No one was shut out, each team won at least two matches (out of 8), so no one went home empty handed.

To show how frustrating this game can be, the team including Yours Truly beat the team boasting more than 17,000 masterpoints ... and lost to the team with 630 points. As Marty Bergen said in a different context, "Points – Shmoints!"

The vagaries of the calendar have allowed us to report on the February Unit game. The winners were Caryn Mason – Patrick Finley, 63.35%. Second (and 1st, E-W) were Karen McCarthy – Karen Olin. (I guess if you weren't named "Karen," any spelling, you were out of luck.) Third were Peter Kavounas – Mary Ann Wotring, in fourth we find Ramona Hernandez – Nona Stokes, and rounding out the leader board, Kitty Moon – Thomas Cusack.

It's time to relate how our members fared in the Rancho Mirage Regional last December. Thanks to Vic Sartor and Caryn Mason for the following material:

A number of Unit 551 players acquitted themselves well at the recent Palm Springs / Rancho Mirage regional tournament. The foursome of Mary Ann Wotring, Vic Sartor, Richard Parker, and Caryn Mason played in various combinations in several team-of-four sessions, winning two events and finishing second in a third.

Caryn also partnered District 23 President John Jones on the winning team in a top level team event and even played a starring role – bidding and bringing home a tough slam to win a crucial match. For the week, she led all local players with 43.30 gold points in just three days.

Richard Parker was close behind with 34.88. Vic Sartor brought home 29.97, and Mary Ann Wotring (who missed one session due to illness) garnered 25.89.

Several other La Fetrians brought home masterpoints. David Ochroch collected 7.19 in various events. Art Weinstein had two successful team sessions with Richard Parker early in the week and would up with 4.91. Amr Elghamry netted 5.37 in his only event – a strong pairs contest. Dan Robinson got 1.07 for a fine 61% morning session with David Ochroch in the Gold Rush pairs. Not a bad performance for our little contingent.



THU: TEAMS - BRT 1

John Jones - Caryn Mason - Sue Treble - Bill Treble



THU: TEAMS - BKT 6

Vic Sartor - Mary Ann Wotring - Nasra Kwentus -
Richard Parker

Promotions since our December issue: Vaughan Inman and Aeshna Mathur are now Junior Masters; Esteban Andryjowicz has reached Sectional Master; Richard Parker has advanced to

NABC Master; and Sofi Kasubhai is an Advanced NABC Master. Congratulations, and keep up the good play.

Special congratulations go to Dan Robinson, who has been selected by the California Pharmacist Association as the 2025 Pharmacist of the Year.

It is quite unusual for a retired pharmacist to get this recognition, but it is largely related to his continued work on the state and national level on health policy and political advocacy that supports the delivery of pharmaceutical care in all practice settings.

Surprisingly, *no one* managed to crack the 65% barrier in December! Well, we lost several games due to both the holidays and the construction at La Fetra. The best effort was a 64.81% game turned in by Mary Ann Wotring and Steve Mancini. Others who topped the leader board in December: Fredy and Lulu Minter, Ramona Hernandez, Nona Stokes, Helen Wang, and Vic Sartor.

Lots of winners in January! One thing that has increased the number of winners: attendance has picked up to the point where we often play a Mitchell movement (two winning pairs) rather than the dreaded Howell movement (one winner). Breaking the 65% barrier in January: Fredy and Lulu Minter, 69.84%; Vic Sartor – Steve Mancini, 67.63%; Vic Sartor – Mary Ann Wotring, 66.07%; and the Minters again, 65.83%. Others topping the leader board were Peter Kavounas, Caryn Mason, Bill Papa, Kurt Trieselmann, Woody Woodman, Tim and Eileen Finlay, Karen McCarthy, and Yours Truly.

Here's a hand that came up some time ago, that I've been holding onto (for when there are no really bizarre ones to report on). South is the dealer, no one is vulnerable. I'll show the whole hand:

	North	
	♠ 10 7 5	
	♥ None	
	♦ AK10654	
	♣ 8763	
West		East
♠ J		♠ A8642
♥ KJ10642		♥ 8
♦ None		♦ QJ873
♣ AKJ854		♣ 102
	South	
	♠ KQ93	
	♥ AQ9753	
	♦ 92	
	♣ Q	

So! You are West, and all set to either bid 2♠ after South opens 1♠, or else 2NT after an opening bid of 1♦. Otherwise you can just bid your heart suit, right?

Guess again! South upsets the apple card by opening one HEART. Eek. Well, you can just bid 2♣, which you do.

North passes, and East – for reasons best known to herself – bids 2♠ on that sturdy five-card suit. South passes, and you certainly have nowhere to go. Now North chimes in with 3♦!

This awful contract goes one down due to the horrid trump split, but it was not such a bad board for N-S after all. While -50 was the normal result, one enterprising E-W pair went for 3NT, making four! Hmmm, on a diamond lead, you get six clubs, one diamond, one heart, and one spade. Don't ask me where the 10th trick comes from.

Quote for the month: "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies." (Groucho Marx)

TRIVIA TIME (no fair looking it up – you *know*, or you *don't*): What was Groucho's actual first name? Answer next month!