

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, January 17, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, January 3, LaVerne Site

Time to kick off the New Year. As we go to press, the assignment of officers in the Unit Board of Directors has not taken place – too many members absent from last month's meeting – but we wish to welcome new Board Member Margie Hall, who replaces Charlotte Capelle.

The December Unit game has not yet taken place, either – drat those publishing deadlines, anyway. You'll get a full report next month. With any luck (on your part) it will be from a different author. Meanwhile, we hope you enjoyed the festivities at the game, and didn't partake too freely of the punch (unless it was the unleaded variety ...)

The December Individual was won by Wendy Wanderman. Ann McClelland was second, Claudia Cochran third, and Donald Logsdon fourth. We wish to thank Lois Snowden for her gracious hosting of our monthly Individual, and Clint Lew for taking over when Lois can't.

Two promotions this month: Gayle Ginsburg is now a Sectional Master, and Charlotte Capelle is a Regional Master. Congratulations!

Congratulations are also in order to Claudia Cochran and Sherman Gao, who qualified for the District 23 North American Pairs finals, Claudia in flight C, Sherman in flight B. Meanwhile, Penny Barbieri and Yours Truly missed qualifying by ½ match point. Grumble mumble mutter.

The top game this month was a 67.9% effort by Ann McClelland and Ron Purkis. They picked a good time to do this – it was during the Western Conference STaC. Other first place finishers were Penny Barbieri, Vic Sartor, Hanan Mogharbel, Charlotte Capelle, Karen Olin, Lulu Minter, Fredy Minter, Mary Miller, Karen McCarthy, Walt Otto, Tom Lill, and Amr Elghamry.

Our hand-of-the-month is another exhibit from the Laurel and Hardy School of Bridge. Sitting North, in fourth seat, you pick up the following collection:

♠ xx ♥ x ♦ AKJx ♣ AJxxxx.

LHO opens 1♥, partner comes in with 2♥ (Michaels), and RHO jams the auction with 4♥.

Unfortunately (or not, as it turns out), you've forgotten your agreement, and call 5♦! (Why not 5♣, no one will ever know, because North ain't talkin'.) This is doubled, of course, and becomes the final contract. Dummy comes down with

♠ KQxx ♥ AT ♦ QT ♣ KQxxx

and after the opening spade lead (again, no one knows where *that* came from!), the contract rolls home when diamonds turn out to be 4-3. Game on your 7 card fit when you have an 11-card fit in another suit. Tough way to get a top!

Quote for the month: “Advice is like castor oil, easy enough to give but dreadful uneasy to take.” (Josh Billings)

Until next month ...