

Pomona-Covina Unit News

January 2020

Unit Game: Saturday January 18,
11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, January 4, San Dimas

As you will have noted above, we have decided to continue the monthly individual at Bridge41. (No, the jokes don't ever get any better, and can't get any worse. Don't see a joke here? Try pronouncing the club name one digit at a time ...)

Speaking of which, the December Individual was a tie between Roger Boyar and Al Lax, 63.54%. Linda Tessier and Steve Mancini tied for third.

The Upgraded Club Championship (which I promised last month) will be held on Friday, January 10. Extra masterpoints, no extra card fee.

The December Unit game was captured by Fredy and Lulu Minter, with an impressive 75% game. In (distant!) second we find Gerard Geremia - Amr Elghamry, Penny Barbieri - Gino Barbieri third, and Kiran Kumar - Roger Boyar fourth. Tim and Eileen Finlay took first in Flight C.

36 players won 77.92 points in December. I suppose that's not *too* bad, considering the holiday festivities and all. Topping the list were Fredy and Lulu Minter, with 10.11 points each. A distant second was Roger Boyar, with 5.74. Fourth was Vic Sartor, 3.63; and Bill Papa rounded out the top five with 3.39.

The top game in December was by Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, with 69.57%, followed closely by the Minters with 67.48%. No other pair managed to top the 65% mark, although in Individual events Claudia Cochran scored 68.75% and Ho Ming Yim managed 66.67%. Other winners: Roger Boyar, Linda Tessier, , Amr Elghamry, and Dominique Moore.

One promotion this month. Amr Elghamry has reached the dizzying heights of Diamond Life Master.

Not too many Unit members attended the recent Regional out in Rancho Mirage, but those who did, did very well. Bill Papa topped the list with 37.09 points. (For some reason, Bill's name does not show up in any actual event; so I can't tell you what brought in all those points.) Tim and Eileen Finlay gathered 23.62, taking first overall in a 54 table Gold Rush, followed by a 3rd place finish in a 59 table Gold Rush. Hanan Mogharbel was right behind them, 22.31 points, taking first in a bracketed Swiss, then first in a BCD Swiss, and third in the Sunday 0-2000 Swiss. Harish Singh brought home 18.61 points, finishing fourth in his KO bracket, and first in his Sunday 0-2000 Swiss bracket. David Ochroch was awarded 9.37 points, with his best result a 2nd in the 0-2000 Swiss. Darlene and Tom Sessions came away with 4.96 points.

Our Hand-of-the-Month this time is strictly for comic relief. You have to see the whole deal to get the full flavor. North deals, N-S are vulnerable. You are East:

♠ J
♥ Q J 9 4
♦ J 10 3
♣ A Q 9 6 2

♠ K 10 8 3	♠ A 6 5
♥ none	♥ A 10 8 6 3
♦ A 7 6 2	♦ 9 8 5
♣ K 10 7 4 3	♣ J 8
	♠ Q 9 7 4 2
	♥ K 7 5 2
	♦ K Q 4
	♣ 5

This hand is strictly for comic relief. North opens 1♣, South calls 1♠. N-S are playing a “big club” system, so North can now go 2♥ without promising a big hand. South raises to 3♥, which becomes the final contract. You, sitting East, have to find a lead. Well, you can eliminate three suits, so you try your luck with the ♦9. Partner (possibly hoping you’ve led from a doubleton and can get a ruff?) ducks, dummy’s King winning. A club to the Queen wins. Out comes the ♠J, which you win. You’d like to protect partner’s clubs, so you must lead a trump. OK, you know where they all are, so let’s give declarer a short-lived thrill and lead the ♥3. It goes ♥2, diamond, and declarer’s ♥4 wins the first trump trick! It’s good news-bad news for declarer, of course, as you are now going to win THREE trump tricks as declarer tries to cross-ruff the hand. Down one, for a near-top!

Quote for the month: “Art, like morality, consists in drawing the line somewhere.” (G. K. Chesterson)