

Pomona-Covina Unit News

January 2022

Individual: January 8, 10:00 a.m., Chino
February, 5, 10:00, TBD

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

Team Games: January 18 and 21, La Fetra

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

Please note, to participate in the team games, you must sign up in advance. Otherwise, it takes a miracle to get an exact multiple of four players for the games.

Although Bridge41 is no more (*gasp!*), the monthly Individual will continue under the auspices of La Fetra. So if you see, on the ACBL website, that La Fetra is now a “multi-site” club, don’t panic. The weekday games will continue as usual at the senior center. Only the Individual will continue to peregrinate.

And if you never figured out the mild joke in the name “Bridge41,” try pronouncing the numbers separately, instead of as “forty-one.”

Winner of the December Individual was Mary Ann Wotring, with a 61.46% game. Last month’s winner, Stephen Andersen, dropped to second (nothing to be ashamed of, of course). Daniel Robinson tied with Rose Roberts for third, Yours Truly was fifth, and Kiran Kumar tied with Linda Hedden for sixth to round out the leader board.

Several of our members did very well at the Palm Springs Regional. The best performance was by the team of Vic Sartor, Mary Ann Wotring, Caryn Mason, and Richard Parker, who pulled in an impressive 22.86 gold points by winning their KO bracket. David Ochroch placed third in a side game, and fourth in B in an open pairs game. Vic Sartor and Mary Ann Wotring placed fourth in a B/C/D pairs game, also fifth in a side game. Carl Silsbee and Art Wallace took second in 299-er pairs game. Finally, in the Sunday B Swiss, a team with Yours Truly, Hanan Mogharbel, Linda Tessier, and a “foreigner” (i.e. someone NOT from our Unit) squeaked into second place in the top flight. This was somewhat of a shocker because we had been slaughtered in the first match, 1-19 in Victory Points, by the team that eventually won the event. So, never give up! We just edged out the team with Vic Sartor, Mary Ann Wotring, Clint Lew, and another “foreigner,” who finished third.

Sorry to say, the flyer for our upcoming (let’s *hope*) Bridge Week Regional next July was not available at the tournament, although it was expected to be. Stay tuned!

In the very competitive December Unit game, Eddie Rose – Ann Gillespie took first place with 58.33%. Fredy Minter - Amr Elghamry were second, Kiran Kumar – Hanan Mogharbel placed third, Mary Ann Wotring – Linda Tessier fourth, and taking honors in Flight C were Kurt Trieselmann – Paul Chrisney.

One rank advancement this month: Gail Leroy has been promoted to Sectional Master. Congratulation, Gail.

The top game at La Fetra in December was posted by Fredy Minter – Roger Boyar, another 72.5% whopper. Other top finishers were Caryn Mason, Mary Ann Wotring, Lulu Minter, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Patrick Finley, and Yours Truly.

To get out of that rut I mentioned last month (all those semi-balanced hands), let's try something different. Perhaps these hands are better suited to the October issue (Halloween), or to the April issue (Walpurgis Night), but what the heck? Here are some amusing atrocities I participated in. In all cases, I was the helpless victim. (That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.) And my partners were not beginners or "chairs," either.

Horror story #1: at favorable vulnerability, I held

♠ A x x ♥ Q ♦ x ♣ K Q J 10 9 x x x

and was treated to the following auction:

Partner	RHO	Me	LHO
1♥	4♠	5♣	5♠
pass	pass	dbl	All Pass

Down came the dummy:

♠ x x ♥ A J x x ♦ A J x x ♣ A x x

I lead the ♣K. Oops! Making 5. Partner had opened 1♥ on

♠ -- ♥ K x x x x x ♦ J x x x x x ♣ x

Perhaps partner should have pulled, with so little defense, but ... to *what*?

Horror story #2: I held

♠ A 10 ♥ 6 4 3 2 ♦ A Q J 9 ♣ 10 x x

and the auction went

Me	Partner (Silver Life Master)
pass	1♣
1♦	2♥
3♥	3NT
4♠	Pass

Partner's hand:

♠ Q x x x ♥ A K Q J ♦ K ♣ K J 9 x

Trumps were 5-2 with the K-J bare on my left. I could not avoid losing 3 trumps and the ♣A (the ♣Q was on my left) for down one. Everyone else was in 4♥, making 6. My 4♠ bid was an obvious (or so I thought) control bid. Yes, I had passed a hand that some (many?) would open. But the hand improved after partner's old-fashioned strong jump shift. Could I possibly have a diamond suit, four card heart support, and also a spade suit worth mentioning for the first time at the four level?

Finally, Horror Story #3: in a 299-er (yes, it was a while ago) Sectional Pairs, I picked up

♠ K Q x x ♥ A K J x x ♦ void ♣ Q x x x

With neither side vulnerable, the auction was

Partner	RHO	Me	LHO
1♠	3♣	4♣*	5♣
dbl	pass	5♦**	all pass

* agreeing spades as trumps.

** control bid.

Aiy, caramba! In the post mortem, partner said she thought I had mis-bid the first time. To add insult to injury, trumps broke 8-2! Partner had ♦AKx and figured that might make a fine trump suit. And for frosting on the cake, 5♣X would have gone for 1100.

Oh well. These things happen.

Quote for the month: “It is much easier to be critical than to be correct.” (Benjamin Disraeli)