

Pomona-Covina Unit News

January 2023

Individual: January 14, 10 a.m., Ontario

February 4, 10 a.m., Upland

Unit Game: January 21, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

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

Sorry, folks, that slew of “welcome back” Club Championships is all behind us. We just get the usual one-per-quarter this year, so far as I know. Actually, I *do* have one Upgraded Club Championship sanction in my back pocket ...I’m going to hold that one in reserve for a while. Usually, except for December, I schedule the club championships for the last week of each calendar quarter.

Also sorry to report that due to disruptions caused by the Great Blizzard of 2022, the January Individual is pushed back one week. (Translation: I got stuck in Chicago for 5+ days, only got to Niagara Falls at all thanks to a couple of miracles, so I extended my stay there a few days.) The game is now on the 2nd Saturday, the 14th, at Tom’s place.

In the December Individual, Peter Kavounas took top honors with 68.36%. Kiran Kumar was second, Nancy Stebbins and Daniel Robinson tied for third, and Dale Quasny rounded out the top scorers.

There was only one big game turned in in December, 68.25% by Fredy and Lulu Minter. Plenty of other winners, though: David Ochroch, Hanan Mogharbel, Vic Sartor, Mary Ann Wotring, Roger Boyar, and Gary Atwell.

In the December Unit game, Bill Papa – Vic Sartor blew away the field with a 72.1% game. Tim and Eileen Finlay took second place, Fredy and Lulu Minter were third, and Roger Boyar – Yours Truly rounded out the leader board.

No rank advancements this month.

Fourteen of our Unit members scored a total of 88.56 masterpoints at the Rancho Mirage Regional last month. The biggest winners were Caryn Mason and Richard Parker, who scored big by winning the Gold Rush pairs on both Tuesday and Friday. For this (and other efforts) they brought home 22.83 and 18.25 points, respectively. David Ochroch was next with 7.27, and Linda Tessier, Hanan Mogharbel, and Yours Truly tied with 6.41.

Here’s a moderately interesting deal I participated in on BBO. It illustrates why bridge can be such a frustrating game. Most interesting of all, the same hand type occurred *three times* that day, twice in F2F play and once on BBO. My hand:

♠ K93 ♥ AQJ ♦ Q543 ♣ KJ7.

Partner dealt and opened 1♠. We were playing Standard, not 2/1, but that doesn’t really matter here. I called 2♦. Partner’s rebid was 2♠. Great, we have nine spades. 4♠ is the obvious call, no? No! What do you plan to use those three trumps in dummy for? Ruffing a fourth-round club or heart? What’s wrong with 3NT? They are unlikely to lead a diamond, and you’d love a heart or club lead. Sure enough, against 3NT, LHO led a club. Dummy came down with

♠ A87652 ♥ 8754 ♦ A7 ♣ A.

Well, not the greatest 6-card suit we've ever seen, but with normal breaks ... which we got ... 12 tricks rolled in, for an absolute top. Double-dummy, 3NT can be held to 10 tricks, whereas both hearts and spades make 5 (hearts were 3-3). Fortunately, the opponents don't *always* play double-dummy.

In that same vein, I held a 4-3-3-3 hand, 15 HCP, and partner opened 1♥, which was my four card suit. Looks like a Jacoby 2NT you say? Same argument as above! What do you plan to ruff in dummy? 3NT made 5, same as hearts. And another one came up later in the same session. All three times, we got great scores playing in notrumps rather than in our suit. Ah, the difference between matchpoints and IMPs!

Quote for the month: "My body is a temple. Ancient and crumbling, and probably haunted." (seen on a T-shirt)