

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, July 19, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – No Game This Month!

That's right, the monthly Individual won't be held this month. It falls during the Bridge Week Regional, don't you know. So we'll see you in August.

The Unit game is back to its normal schedule, after being somewhat discombobulated by the Longest Day events. Because that fell relatively late in the month, we don't have the results yet – look for them next month.

The June Individual was captured by Richard Patterson, followed by Charlotte Capelle, Clint Lew and Rona Schneider (the latter two tying for third). Linda Tessier took fifth overall and first in flight C.

No promotions this month, but we welcome new unit member Betty Ellis.

The top game this month was a fine 69.71% effort by Penny Barbieri and Sandy Jones. Other first place finishers were Genise Hasan, Karen McCarthy, Dave Ruoff, Roger Boyar, Pat Radamaker, Richard Patterson, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Denise Morgan, Don Naf, Hanan Mogharbel, Charlotte Capelle, Billie Steiner, Amr Elghamry, Sofi Kasubhai, Linda Tessier, Clint Lew, Herman Helber and Fred Theurkauf.

In tournament play, several of our members (and honorary members!) did well enough at the Riverside Regional. Sherman Gao took first overall in the Charity Pairs, third in a Gold Rush, and first in B in a stratified pairs; Dave and Susan Ruoff took first place in a side game, finishing tied for second (with each other, of course) in the overall for that side series; Your Correspondent and Claudia Cochran took a section top in a Gold Rush; Ray Malki took top honors in a 299-er game; Claudia Cochran and Esther Johnson took 3rd in a 299-er. If we missed your good results ... sorry about that.

Perhaps you remember the old Omar Sharif Bridge Circus of days gone by. Our hands-of-the-month – yes, there were a lot to choose from this month – are strictly from the Laurel & Hardy Bridge Circus. First up: you pick up the following somewhat drab collection: ♠ K975 ♥ JT ♦ 9863 ♣ Q54. Nothing to write home about there; low count and the most common shape. Take a look at the whole deal:

	♠ QT6432	
	♥ Q542	
	♦ none	
	♣ AK9	
♠ K975		♠ AJ8
♥ JT		♥ AK97
♦ 9863		♦ AQT754
♣ Q54		♣ none
	♠ none	
	♥ 853	

♦ KJ32
♣ JT8732

That's right. Three voids in one deal. On this one, who can make what, is a mystery yet to be solved.

Our next gem is even better ... if you like this sort of thing. As dealer, not vulnerable, you pick up: ♠ KT83 ♥ A7532 ♦ A2 ♣ 98. Hmmmmm. You'd kind of like to open this hand, but you don't have a Flannery bid available. And if you open the "normal" 1♥, you're really going to have trouble with your rebid (unless partner is kind enough to bid 1♠ or raise hearts). One holder of these cards found a most creative solution. He took the ♣ 9, stuck it in with the spades, and opened 1♠. The kibitzer nearly fell out of his chair (yeah, it was *that* kind of game). It gets better: LHO called 2♥! After a somewhat tortured auction, LHO played 3♥ (don't ask), which goes down only one.

Finally, as dealer, vulnerable, you pick up:

♠ T9732 ♥ AK ♦ AT983 ♣ 8.

Do you open? Three quick tricks, two five card suits. Flawed, but what the heck, you have the boss suit. With the opponents silent, you open 1♠, partner says 1NT, you bid your diamonds, all pass. The opening lead is the ♠A. Pard faces a singleton spade and King-third in trumps. Not bad. You can get a black suit cross ruff going. You call for dummy's spade and ... RHO shows out! Arrrrrrgh! Yes, spades are 7-0. Tough. One down on reasonable defense. At most other tables, the contract was 3♠ – by the opponents – down one. Bridge is such an *easy* game.

Quote for the month: "I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much." (Mother Teresa)

Until next month ...