

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, July 15, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, July 1, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

First up, thanks to everyone who participated in The Longest Day. Special thanks to Margie, who organizes the refreshments, and Penny, our Treasurer.

In Longest Day game results, we had a weirdie in the morning session: a 3-way tie for first overall! Karen McCarthy - Mary Miller, Genise Hasan - Vic Sartor, and Steve Mancini - Margie Hall topped the field with 64.2%. Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson were fourth, and Paul Chrisney – Bob Kakade took first in C.

In the afternoon session – a smaller, but not easier, field – Tom Lill – Pat Rademaker took first with 69.3%. Looking up at them (a fair distance, if we may be so immodest) were Genise Hasan - Vic Sartor second, then Steve Mancini - Margie Hall.

In the regular Unit game, Joseph Viola - Amr Elghamry captured the top spot. Margie Hall - Ann Raymond were second, and Linda Tessier - Vic Sartor tied for third with Kerry Sartor - Barbara Papa.

In the June Individual, Linda Tessier tied with Clint Lew for first, at 66.7%. Sofi Kasubhai was third, and Steve Mancini fourth.

There were two scores over 70% this month. The top one was 76%, posted by – hold your breath – Yours Truly and Paul Chrisney. The other was by Penny and Gino Barbieri, 71%. Both were slightly tainted by being achieved in 3 table games. The best score in a “real” game was posted by, ho hum, Vic Sartor and Bill Papa, 66.8%. Others topping the leader board: Genise Hasan, Claudia Cochran, Linda Stuart, Hanan Mogharbel, Karen McCarthy, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Linda Tessier, and Clint Lew.

One promotion to report: Frances P DeRuyter is now a Sectional Master. Congratulations, Rita.

For our Hand of the Month, we visit the Surprise Party department. Vulnerable against not, in fourth seat, you pick up this promising collection:

♠ KQT532 ♥ AT ♦ A6 ♣ A86

With visions of sugar plums dancing in your head (yes, we are a bit out of season here), you await your turn to call ... and see LHO open 1♠. Aieeeee. Pass, pass, to you. Now what?

1NT is certainly possible ... but LHO figures to have ♠AJxxx, so you will win 3 aces and 3 spades if partner is broke. You could double and then “correct” to 2♠ ... except partner is unlikely to take 2♠ as natural. Or you could pass, and hope to beat 1♠. Ready? *Rien ne va plus* ...

Here’s what happened. 1♠ makes, because your hand keeps getting end played, ruffing whatever slim values partner has and leading into declarer. 1NT will make 2 on a spade lead, but on a heart lead, you are toast. And the one pair who played in 2♠ (don’t ask me!) went down 1.

Dummy came up with the stiff ♠J, and partner hand ♥Qxx and ♦QJT98, all useless to you on either offense or defense. Sigh.

Quote for the Month: “Any idiot can face a crisis. It’s day-to-day living that wears you out.” (Anton Checkhov)

Until next month ...