

Pomona-Covina Unit News

July 2020

Unit Game: Saturday July 18, 11:00 a.m., Glendora
Individual: Saturday, July 4, 9:30 a.m., Chino

Still no word as to when our main playing site will reopen. Again, I'll send out a Bridge Alert when (if??) I get news, and will post the information on our Unit web site. Personally, I don't see La Fetra opening before Labor Day, and who can tell – it may be closed the rest of the year.

In better news, the Knights of Columbus Hall in Glendora has reopened. We did attempt to hold a Unit game on the 27th (the “normal” day was taken up by Longest Day festivities), but not enough players signed up and so, no game. We will try again in July. And again in August. And ... we are *nothing* if not stubborn.

Also, I'm going to try hosting an Individual on the morning of the 4th – the normal 1st Saturday. Masks required! We'll keep as far apart as possible. I have a spacious patio so we will play outdoors, weather cooperating. Afterwards I plan a picnic-style lunch, burgers-and-dogs, no extra charge. An humble thing, but our own. If you DO play to attend please let me know. I doubt the player count will get out of hand, but ... you never know!

And back to bad news, you all no doubt got the ACBL's announcement that ALL Regional and Sectional tournaments (not to mention the Fall NABC) are *kaput* for the rest of this year. So, our joint Sectional is off again. Sigh. Better luck next year.

More bad news: Sue Aspley has succumbed to the corona virus. Note I got this from the grape vine so I hope I am not mistaken.

No promotions to report this month. I suppose that's not surprising given the limited play opportunities.

The Longest Day ... well, MoJo announced that a goodly amount of funds were raised. Sadly, NO ONE has contributed via our Unit web site (well, besides the Organizer (ahem) that is). You can still make a contribution via the Web by visiting <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>.

Before we get to our Hand-of-the-Month; here's the self-proclaimed “My Greatest Bid of the Century” from Ho Ming Yim. In his words:

“I was sitting in the fourth seat and picked up this disgusting hand, ♠T98532 ♥965 ♦AKQ9=♣void.

“We were vulnerable against non-vulnerable. I am still contemplating what to bid when the bidding already went 1♥-P-2♣ to me. The opponents are already in a game-forcing auction, and with a 6-4 distribution my hand screamed for a disruptive bid. But what should I bid? 2♠ isn't going to be effective, and 3♠ might get doubled and down a bunch. Tough decision, tough decision.

“I finally settled on an ‘inspired’ bid of 2♦, completely ignoring my six-card spade suit!! The bid was meant to be lead directing if nothing else. My LHO raised to 3♣ and my RHO jumped to 5♣. I immediately cashed out my diamond tricks and to my surprise the diamonds

split 4333 and 5♣ was down one, while 3N makes precisely because of the 4333 split in diamonds!!

“The other tables all played it in 3N making three and we got a top board. One pair bid 2♠ with my hand and his partner didn’t even lead K from KT!!”

And on to our Hand. This comes from a session played in the “Endless Summer” tournament. It is, of course, from the Laurel and Hardy School of Bridge. Even the opponents were laughing at the outcome. For maximum laughs, I’ll first give you only my hand, as dealer, Hot against Not:

♠ K ♥ A Q 3 2 ♦ J 10 8 2 ♣ A Q 9 6

Nothing strange so far. Even before the recent rule change, it seems an obvious 1NT opening. (Too bad we weren’t playing Acol, then I open 1♥ of course.)

LHO chimed in with 2♣, DONT, Alerted as probably 5-5. Hmmm. His other suit is probably spades. Wait!

Partner bid 2♥, which we play as a transfer in this sequence. And what does RHO call? 2♠!!! OK, now I *really* don’t have a clue (no wisecracks please). There must be a fifth suit in this deck.

Seeing no sensible alternative I passed. LHO corrected to 3♣ and there it sat. Not knowing who has what or how much of it, I let the auction die in 3♣.

Now look at the full deal:

♠ A Q 9 4 2	
♥ J 9 5	
♦ K 7 6	
♣ 4 3	
♠ J 10 8 7 3	♠ K
♥ 7	♥ A Q 3 2
♦ Q 9 5 4 3	♦ J 10 8 2
♣ J 7	♣ A Q 9 6
♠ 6 5	
♥ K 10 8 6 4	
♦ A	
♣ K 10 8 5 2	

This frightful contract went three down when declarer took the spade hook at trick 1. +150 was worth about 91% of the matchpoints. Two E-W pairs somehow made nine tricks in 3NT, for all the money. Don’t ask me! No one else (that I could see) made anything. Spade and heart contracts got punished no matter which side played the hand. After the hand was over (it was nearly the last deal of the event), North ruefully observed “maybe I should have just let it go ...”

“Quote for the month: “If there are obstacles, the shortest line between two points may be the crooked line.” (Bertolt Brecht)