

Pomona-Covina Unit News

July 2021

Individual: Saturday July 3, 9:30 a.m., Upland

Unit Game: Saturday July 10, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

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

Big News! La Fetra is re-opening! Here are the details as I received them:

“The La Fetra Center will tentatively be reopening Tuesday, July 6 for almost all of our activities indoors. I know most of you have already sent me your 2021 Space Requests, so we are already prepared on that front. If your group/club/service is interested in returning, please note that all activities will take place at their usual time from before the facility closed last year. The only exception is that we will not be having after-hours programming at this time. If your program is normally after 5:00pm and you cannot change the time, I will let you know as soon as I hear something regarding the allowance of evening programs. If your program is normally after 5:00pm and you are open to changing the time, I will work with you to select a time that works best for the group.

Some notes:

- We will be having our activities at 100% capacity.
- As per the current LA County Department of Public Health guidelines, individuals who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are not required to wear masks, whereas individuals who are not vaccinated are required to wear masks. The La Fetra Center will notify all participants of this rule (or any new rule/guidance the LA County DPH gives us).
- All participants must fill out a new Emergency Form, and all participants must sign a new liability waiver that includes details about COVID-19.”

So what does this mean for our bridge games at La Fetra?

I will PLAN on holding the normal Tuesday and Friday games, starting at 8:45. I am unable to make this too much earlier (8:30 anyone?) nor can I extend the time we have the rooms available so we can start later. Sorry. Other groups use the facility, also.

I am reducing the entry fee for the games (from \$7 to \$5), at least through the end of the year, to come more into line with the games on BBO.

We will resume the Thursday evening game if & when permitted to do so. You don't come to the evening game because you don't drive at night? Why not contact someone who lives not too far out-of-the-way and share a ride?

And, for those of you who have gotten used to the inflated masterpoint awards on BBO: the ACBL is allowing all clubs to hold 8 weeks worth of “Welcome Back” games – paying at the Club Championship rate. If you'd like to see the awards from that game, go to our web site and see the results of the June 28 game. The winners got 2.63 black points; in an ordinary game, it would have been 0.80. And we can hold 2 weeks worth of Upgraded Club Championships. These games can be held any time this year. The first few games will be regular club games while we get the word out, but after that ... buckets of masterpoints will be awarded.

Those of you (a sadly small group) who have been supporting the PPDVBC will be getting a rebate of some of your entry fees to those games. How much? I can't say exactly right now; I'm waiting for Mojo's final accounting. It will be in the neighborhood of \$1.50 for every session you played in the PPDVBC. Why am I doing this? A couple of reasons: I hardly did anything to earn this money (some minor bookkeeping and recording), AND to help keep bridge alive in our area. Scratch my back, I'll scratch yours, etc. Just backs, though, no monkey business allowed here.

Snacks will still be available, but they will be individually wrapped items for the near term. No open chips & salsa for example. At least, not right away. On a TRIAL basis I'll bring water and sodas. If there's no sales at all, that will be that. (All profit from such sales goes toward the Unit 551 operating budget.)

I'll run the games as long as we have enough attendance. If (for example) we have to keep cancelling the Tuesday game for lack of attendance, then I will simply stop holding it. Anyone else who'd like to take over in that case, talk to me, friend. I'm not unreasonable, it just seems like it because I almost am.

If you've been vaccinated - be prepared to show proof. No, not to me, to the officials at La Fetra.

Because the local senior centers, which mostly offer a bridge game, are starting to reopen, the July 5 game will be the last Monday session held at Rose's until the end of summer. Depending on how things turn out of course, we might restart earlier. And the Individual, on the first Saturday of each month, will continue as usual.

If anything changes between now and July 6, I will send out a Bridge Alert. You don't receive the Bridge Alerts? WHY NOT? It's not like it costs anything.

Our Longest Day event was a modest success, much to Our Surprise. We had 7 ½ tables, and counting all donations, we raised at least \$790. Why the qualification? Donations received by 7/31 count toward our fundraising goal, and one person has already asked about making a late donation. We'll have the final totals next month.

We have two promotions this month. Dede Moga is now a Club Master, and Stephen Andersen is now a Sectional Master. Congratulations to you both! And although she appeared in last month's "Rank Changes" section, somehow I forgot to congratulate Caryn Mason for taking that tough first step up the ladder, Junior Master. I don't know what happened, except that May was a rough month over here. No excuse, of course.

Our Hand-of-the-Month was submitted by Ho Ming Yim, whose only commentary was "Here's an interesting hand ... of course I misplayed it." I'll give it to you as an exercise; see if YOU get it right!

♠ Q J 8 4 3
 ♥ A 9 4
 ♦ Q 7 5 2
 ♣ 4

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

♠ K 9 6 5
 ♥ none
 ♦ A J 9 8 4
 ♣ 9 5 3 2

As usual when there are long suits about, the auction was lively (East deals, both sides vulnerable):

North	East	South	West
	1♣	1♦	2♥
3♦	3♥	4♠	pass
4NT	5♣	pass	5♥
5♠	X	all pass	

The opening lead was the ♣8, ♣4, ♣A, ♣2. RHO then played the ♥2, ♣3, ♥J, ♥A. Declarer now attacked trumps with ♠J, ♠A, ♠5, ♠2. Now comes the ♥10, ♠5, ♥3, ♥4. The ♠K drew the remaining enemy trumps, whereupon declarer ruffed the ♣5 in dummy, and ... over to you! What now? Think, think, think!

You need the ♦Kx onside, that's for sure. (Yes, the ♦K could be stiff offside. "One peek is worth two finesses!") If diamonds are 2-2, 1-3, or 0-4, it doesn't matter which diamond you lead (so long as you do take the finesse for the 2-2 case). But if they are 3-1 ...and the ♦K is stiff ...leading the ♦Q promotes West's ♦10 and down you go in a makeable contract!

Well, I for one cannot laugh. Been there, done that, then scraped egg off of face!

Quote for the month: "A hunch is creativity trying to tell you something." [Frank Capra]