

Pomona-Covina Unit News

July 2023

Individual: July 1, 10 a.m., Upland
August 5, 10 a.m., Upland
Unit Game: July 15, 11:00 a.m., Glendora
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game
Club Championships: July 18, 21
NO GAME: Tuesday, July 4

Since there is no game at La Fetra on July 4, consider trucking on down to Long Beach and play in the **Penny and Gino Barbieri Open Pairs** game. They're being honored (among others) for their contributions to Bridge in Unit 551. Being honored for same later in the week are **Vic Sartor, Roger Boyar, and Richard Patterson**.

In the June Individual, newcomer Julie Curry took top honors with 68.95%. (Before she knew the final result, she said she'd try to play better next time. I replied that if she did, I'd have to give her some sort of handicap!) Clinton Lew was second, and we had a three-way tie for third: Linda Tessier, Arthur Weinstein and Paul Chrisney.

The games were very competitive last month. There were only three games that broke the magic 65% barrier, and those barely made the cut. The top game was turned in by Vic Sartor and Mary Ann Wotring, 65.38%. Finishing second in that same game at 65.22% were Roger Boyar – Fredy Minter. The only other biggie was turned in by Lulu and Fredy Minter, 65.1%.

That means there were lots of other winners: Hanan Mogharbel, Stephen Andersen, Gary Atwell, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Tim and Eileen Finlay, Karen McCarthy, and Yours Truly.

In the June Unit Game, Roger Boyar carried Yours Truly to a 63.1% top spot. Fredy Minter – Amr Elghamry were second, and Mary Ann Wotring – Caryn Mason took third.

Once again, we have one promotion to announce: Nancy Bocking has started the long climb upward by becoming a Junior Master.

Strangely, there weren't many really interesting deals in June. So, I've reached back into the archives for "The Auction of the Century." The actual deal is lost in the mists of time, but I think you'll find this fascinating nonetheless.

I was Directing, and also kibitzing, when I was treated to the following really creative bidding sequence. It seems the pair in question were using 1NT-2♣ as 4-card Stayman and 2NT-3♣ as 5-card Stayman. The bidding proceeded: 2NT-pass-2♣!-pass (accepting 2♣ without batting an eye); 2NT!!!-pass-3♣!!!-pass (again calmly accepting the situation as normal).

Opener, who apparently had never discussed this particular sequence with his partner, now went into the tank. Was pard asking for a 5-card major after he had denied a 4-card major? Was he trying to sign off in clubs? Was this a slam try? Eventually he settled on 3NT, which proved to be a standard spot. Everyone passed without a question being raised. But I was very glad no one asked me for a director's ruling.

Note, this was in the "old days" before the 2017 revision to the Laws. Back then, had someone challenged the 2♣ bid, responder could not have bid 3♣ without barring his partner.

Nowadays, of course, the Laws are more sensible in this regard. But then, responder would probably have gone 3NT anyway, but who knows?

Quote for the month: “When you want to fool the world, tell the truth.” (Otto von Bismark)