

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, June 3, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, June 17, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

The Longest Day – Wednesday, June 21, 9:00 a.m. / 1:15 p.m.

Two Unit games to report. In April, Bill Papa – Vic Sartor rolled home by a goodly margin. Fredy and Lulu Minter were second, Steve Mancini – Margie Hall third, with Claudia Cochran - Hanan Mogharbel and Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson tying for fourth. In the May game, the Vic & Bill show took the top spot. Second were Gino Barbieri & Your Truly, followed by Richard Patterson – Roger Boyar and Clint Lew – Bob Kakade.

In the May Individual, Penny Barbieri took top honors, giving herself a birthday present. (Well, it was actually the day before. Close enough.) Linda Tessier was second, Steve Mancini third, Paul Chrisney fourth, and tying for fifth were Clint Lew and Yours Truly.

The top score this month was 76%, posted by Joe Unis and Herb Stampfl. With another score over 70% this month, they are becoming a threat to be reckoned with on Thursdays. Other winners: Fredy and Lulu Minter, Linda Stuart, Hanan Mogharbel, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Claudia Cochran, Gayle Ginsburg, Daniel Sonner, Jake Williams, Richard Patterson, Genise Hasan, Margie Hall, Linda Ananea, Karen Olin, and Mary Miller.

Ah, back on track from last month. Two promotions to report this month. Rita Stachniak is now a Club Master, and Randy Howard has reached the exalted ranks of the Gold Life Masters.

Don't forget about The Longest Day, coming up this month. If you wish to donate, you can do so most easily by visiting <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>. Games will be held at the Knights of Columbus in Glendora. All monies collected go to the Alzheimer's Association. Even the Director will be working for nothing. Well, he's worth it ...

Still a month away, but don't forget about the Bridge Week Regional next month, in Long Beach. Yeah, it's a hike for most of us, but get in touch with your Board of Directors and we should be able to arrange some carpooling.

“There's no such thing as luck, but we all know that it exists.” So says the Hideous Hog. You think *you* have bad luck? Here are a couple of hands that came up recently.

This one was dealt in our May Individual. It would make even Karapet Djoulifyan blanch. You deal, and find yourself looking at

♠ AK42 ♥ 5 ♦ AKT73 ♣ 82

Nice enough. You open 1♦, LHO passes, partner calls 1NT, and somewhat unexpectedly, RHO bids 2♥. You pass, and the opponents eventually bid to 4♥. Well? Over to you.

Hmmmm. There's obviously some shape to this deal. Still ... You appear to have 3 or 4 sure tricks, and partner must surely have *something*. No one bid spades, so you figure your ♠AK will cash. Trumps aren't breaking, either. So you venture a double, and lead the ♠A.

Shock #1: dummy faces:

♠ none ♥ AJ4 ♦ QJ962 ♣ KQ763.

Arrgh! Where are all the spades? Declarer ruffs and plays the ♥A, then a small diamond. Shock #2: declarer is void! Even though partner contributes the ♣A to the defense, 10 tricks come rolling home when declarer ruffs two spades in dummy. By the way, for reasons best known to himself, partner had spades but didn't bid them. For the best maybe, since the 5-0 split would cause you some grief.

Hand number two came up in an ordinary pairs game ... but the Witch of Ararat was still having her fun. Again you deal, and find yourself looking at

♠ none ♥ AQJ62 ♦ QJT42 ♣ AKQ

A very nice 3-loser hand! You open 1♥, partner raises to 2♥ (the opponents are silent, for a change), and you make a 3♦ "game try." Why, since you are going to bid game anyway? Well, if the Bridge Gods smile, you can foresee 12 tricks. If partner has help in diamonds, you need only one of five things to happen: (1) partner has the ♥K; (2) the ♥K is on side; (3) partner has the ♦AK; (4) partner's diamond help is a singleton (you also need possibility 1 or 2 along with this one); or (5) partner's help is the ♦A with the ♦K on side. Partner duly calls 4♥, so you shoot the slam. The opening lead is a spade.

Bad luck, Karapet. Not one of those five possibilities come home. Partner has

♠ QJ43 ♥ T98 ♦ A6 ♣ JT65

Partner had her 4♥ bid, but the black suit honors are wasted, and both red kings are off side. Down one. Nice try. You gotta laugh, or you'll cry. Now, if the Rueful Rabbit had been declarer ...

Quote for the Month: "Gentleman ... one who never hurts anyone's feelings unintentionally." (Oliver Herford)

Until next month ...