

## Pomona-Covina Unit News

June 2020

Unit Game: Saturday June 13 - maybe

11:00 a.m., Glendora – maybe

Individual: TBD, Chino – maybe

The Longest Day: Saturday, June 20

9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Glendora – maybe

Well, I'll start with some encouraging news. Our joint (with Unit 516) Sectional tournament, originally scheduled for last month, has not been cancelled, but has been rescheduled for the last weekend in September. That would be September 25-26-27. Same venue (the Upland Women's Club), same schedule. I don't have the flyers yet, but stay tuned to this station for breaking news.

More good news: through the efforts of our webmaster David White, and Morris "MoJo" Jones, we are now partnered with Units 559 and 564 in the PPDVBC (hey, we need to buy a vowel or something). That's the Pasadena-Pomona-Downey Virtual Bridge Club on BBO. There are open sessions Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 11 a.m.; Thursday at 7:15 p.m.; Friday at 4:15 p.m.; and Saturday at 12:30 p.m. There's a 0-1000 point game Monday at 7:15 p.m., and a 0-500 game Saturday at 10:00 a.m. The schedule will no doubt be evolving; check it out at <https://bridgemojo.com/node/55>.

If you played at least one game at La Fetra, Bridge41, or our monthly Unit game since January 1, 2019, you are eligible to be a regular member of this club. (You had to have won some points, for some unknown reason.) If not, you are still eligible if you played in a 559 or 564 game. You can contact the club manager, Morris Jones ("MoJo") at [ppdvb2@bridgemojo.com](mailto:ppdvb2@bridgemojo.com).

The ACBL has decreed that all Virtual Club games held on June 20 and June 21 will be "Longest Day" games. I have queried the League as to whether we will be allowed to hold our scheduled games on the 20<sup>th</sup> – live at the K of C, I mean – but no reply yet. Stay tuned, but it seems unlikely that we'll have in person games by then. Since there won't be another SCBN before the scheduled games, try our Unit web site; the news will also go out on a "Bridge Alert!" Whether you play at a Virtual club, in person (I'm dreaming), or not, you can still donate directly by visiting <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>.. Or go to our Unit web site, you will find a link on the home page.

All the "maybes" in the schedule are of course because no one can predict from day to day what's going to reopen when, if anything.

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.

I must confess, I played on BBO for the first time last month. IMHO, it's fun (i.e., better than no bridge at all), but will never replace in-person bridge. The big advantages (aside from the inflated masterpoints being awarded) are, you don't have to leave home, and you save a lot of time by not having to pull your cards from the board, count them, sort them, then shuffle them and put them back in the board. I figure a minute per board right there. So don't panic at the 6 or 7 minute time limit. 4 minutes for speedball!

The virtual club manager, Mojo, ran a tutorial over Zoom in May. He has posted it; the link is: <https://bridgemojo.com/node/55>. It's also available on YouTube: [https://youtu.be/ERyL\\_DyLVxg](https://youtu.be/ERyL_DyLVxg).

One promotion to report this month. Susie Emminger has reached the heights of Silver Life Master. Congratulations, Suze.

Our hand-of-the-Month comes from a game played over BBO, reported by Ho Ming Yim. It was a team game. There was the possibility of a double slam swing, something you don't see every day. I'll give you the full hand for your admiration:

♠ Q 9 6 5	
♥ A Q 10 9 6 3 2	
♦ none	
♣ 3 2	
♠ K	♠ 8
♥ J 8 5 4	♥ K 7
♦ A J 3	♦ K Q 10 9 7 6 2
♣ K Q 10 6 5	♣ A 9 7
♠ A J 10 7 4 3 2	
♥ none	
♦ 8 5 4	
♣ J 8 4	

I will let Ho Ming describe this gem in his own words:

“This hand showed up today whilst playing on BBO. East opened a diamond and I was sitting North and bid 6♠ over 6♦.

“On the ♦A lead, with double-dummy play, South can ruff the first diamond, cash ♥A to pitch a club, ruff the ♥K on the second round of hearts, play the ♠A dropping the ♠K, then cross-ruff hearts and diamonds to set up two more heart pitches for the clubs, making 13 tricks. Conversely, although East is missing two aces, South has transportation issues to get to North's ♥A, so East would also make 6♦.

“Although it's not a true small slam swing (6♦ is cold whereas 6♠ makes on anything but a club lead), it's still close enough for me to call it a small slam swing in practice. I don't recall the last time I held a hand this distributional where both directions can make a small slam. I thought I'd share this fascinating hand with you to cheer you up.

“7♠ makes on a spade lead as well. Ruff heart two times and the entire heart suit sets up, and you still have three diamond ruff entries to the board. The bidding at my table was 1♦-3♠-5♦-5♠-6♦-P-P-6♠-X-P-P-P. The bidding almost guarantees a void in diamond in one of the hands. So a club lead is the winning opening lead. The opponents misread the auction and lead the top diamond. I wish I could tell you my partner declared 6♠ correctly but the result was 6♠x-3. This was a team game and the other table also misplayed it and was 5♠x-1. I really wanted to see a double small slam swing on both boards. 6♠x+1 for +1310 and 6D=+1370, that's +2680 on one board for a 21 IMP swing. I would pay good money to see that happen...

“With 11-card fit, go for the drop. The mnemonic I use is “11-9-7, drop the K-Q-J respectively. 10-8-6, finesse the K-Q-J respectively.”

Well well well. Back to me. It's easy to be wise after the fact of course, but I would say I would almost certainly have led the ♣K from the West hand, while retaining the ♦A as an entry. (Or so I would think!)

Quote for the month: "After all, what is your hosts' purpose in having a party? Surely not for you to enjoy yourself. If that were their sole purpose, they'd have simply sent champagne and women over to your place by taxi." (P. J. O'Rourke)