Pomona-Covina Unit News

June 2021

Individual: Saturday June 5, 9:30 a.m., Upland
Unit Game: Saturday June 19, 11:00 a.m., Glendora
Longest Day: Saturday June 26, 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Glendora
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

We will be holding two one-session games in support of The Longest Day (Alzheimer's Association) at the Knights of Columbus in Glendora. These are single-session events, so you can play in either, or both, as you wish. (Or neither, but why?)

Entry fee will be $6/person, and all this (well maybe a tiny bit will go towards the snacks) goes to the Alzheimer's Association.   Additional donations are welcome also.   Want to donate (it's tax deductible, of course), but cannot make it to either game? Try https://act.alz.org/goto/LaFetra.

The Knights of Columbus have graciously agreed to donate the rent to this worthy cause, and of course the Director will be working for nothing. Well, he's worth it, I'd say.

Our Monday F2F games at Rose's no longer *require* you to wear a face mask or shield – it's up to your discretion.

So far as I'm aware, the merger of the PPDVBC and the 556 VBC is on track. So there won't be a PPDVBC after 5/31. You can check the schedule of games at 556 here: https://my.acbl.org/club-results/266882. To find the games on BBO, search for "556" in All Tournaments. 556 is planning to incorporate as many of the PPDVBC games into their schedule as possible, but …

No rank changes again this month.

This time, our Hand-of-the-Month is an interesting exercise (or so I think) in hand evaluation. At favorable vulnerability, you deal and find yourself looking at these cards:

<p style="text-align:center">♠ 7   ♥ K 6 5 3   ♦ 9   ♣ A K Q J 8 3 2</p>

It seems like a normal 1♣ opening, no? Yes. For all that it's a 4-loser hand, you don't really have the high card strength for 2♣. OK. LHO passes, partner bids 1♥, RHO passes, and … now what?

Well, what could partner hold (besides 4+ hearts I mean)? Anything from 6 HCP on up, I suppose. With a bare minimum, if you raise to only 2♥, partner is going to pass and the opponents are surely going to compete in spades. Bad for your side. Can you make some sort of forcing bid? After all, even with a 6-count, unless all partner's high cards are in the black suits, 4♥ is a likely make. Well, no number of hearts you can bid is forcing. You could make a splinter bid in either pointed suit (how often do you have *that* option?) but which one would be right? In this case, neither, as your partnership doesn't have splinters in its arsenal. So you cannot guess wrong *that* way.

How about a phony reverse into 2♦? Ugh. It's often right to force in a suit you don't actually have – and certainly, if you reverse, your first suit is longer (!) than your second. But if you reverse, partner might even raise you, and then you'll never convince her you have four card heart support.

Well.   At the table (well, at the computer – this was BBO), I chose 4♥, shutting out the opponents' spades and at least getting to game. Partner then upped the ante with 6♥! Partner's hand was:

<p style="text-align:center">♠ A 8 4 3   ♥ A Q 4 2   ♦ A J 5   ♣ 9 7.</p>

As you can see, the slam rolls home. In fact, at all 7 tables, 13 tricks came in. Only two pairs bid the slam; three pairs were in 4♥; one was in 3NT (well, matchpoint scoring *does* favor notrump!), and one

pair was in 2♣. They probably had a mis-click or something; that would be my guess, with both partners holding an opening hand.

There might be a way to get to the grand, but I can't really see it. Perhaps this auction would work:

1♣ – 1♥; 4♥ – 4♠; 5♣ – 5♦; 7♥?

You would be gambling that partner has the trump Queen, though. Too tough for the Monday night 0-1000 game though!

Or, responder could take charge with Blackwood, which would show that the partnership has all five key cards and the trump Queen. But responder can't really count 13 tricks, not knowing of that huge pile of clubs in opener's hand. C'est la guerre!

Quote for the month: "Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner. [James Bovard]