

Pomona-Covina Unit  
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, March 21, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, March 7, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne Site

The February Unit game, due to the conflict with the Woodland Hills regional, was delayed a week, which places it FAR beyond our publishing deadline. Look for results next month.

The February Individual was won by Don Logsdon, followed by Ann McClelland, Your Correspondent, Margie Hall, and Richard Patterson. This month's game will be a STaC – silver points!

One promotion this month: Dea Toutoungy is now a Junior Master. Congratulations, Dea, and keep up the good work.

The final standings for the 2014 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards are out. Congratulations (and awards!) to:

<u>Rank (masterpoints)</u>	<u>Ace of Clubs</u>	<u>Mini-McKenney</u>
0 – 5	Don H Nakasaki	Dale G Quasny
5 – 20	Peggy Diller	Sofi J Kasubhai
20 – 50	Judy L Husted	Judy L Husted
50 – 100	Kiran Kumar	Kiran Kumar
100 – 200	Claudia Cochran	Claudia Cochran
200 – 300	Sherman Gao	Sherman Gao
300 – 500	Thomas M Lill	Thomas M Lill
500 – 1000	Clinton Lew	Clinton Lew
1000 – 2500	Vic Sartor	Vic Sartor
2500 – 5000	Ann C McClelland	Jack Chao
5000 – 7500	Bill Papa	Bill Papa

Several races were decided by a point or two – in one case, the winner's edge was only 0.62 masterpoints. The biggest edge went to Mr. Gao, who with over 500 points, easily outdistanced the competition, and won not only the Unit award, but the District 23 top spot.

The top game this month was a 70.1% effort by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa. Once again, we have a lot of other names up on the leader board: Richard Patterson, Carolyn Siracuse, Fredy and Lu Minter, Hanan Mogharbel, Kurt Trieselmann, Ron Purkis, Ann McClelland, Penny Barbieri, Sandy Jones, Claudia Cochran, Evelyn Hubacker, Joe Unis, Genise Hasan, Gail Ginsburg, Pat Radamaker, Clint Lew, Ken Bloomfield, and Yours Truly.

Sad to report, we have lost another member. Long time Unit member and swell fellow Rick Witham passed away last month after a short illness. He will be missed.

You think *you* hold poor cards? Top this: Your Correspondent, playing in the Riverside regional, picked up a true Yarborough. (Gee, thanks, Mr. Dealing Computer.) OK, that happens about one time in 1,828, according to my calculations. Just three days

later, in a club game, along came another true Yarborough! YC played a total of 149 boards that week, somewhat short of the 1,828 quoted earlier. *You* figure the odds!

Our hand-of-the-month this time is just one of those curiosities that make the game so interesting ... and frustrating. Third in hand, you find yourself looking at:

♠ 8 ♥ T6432 ♦ 987532 ♣ A.

Your usual mess. Partner opens 1♣. Well, that club Ace gives you enough to respond, and you brace yourself to respond 1♥. Somewhat unexpectedly, RHO calls 1♥! Well, that takes you off the hook, and it goes pass – pass back to partner, who chimes in with 1NT (probably showing that tweener 18-19 balanced hand). RHO passes, and now you can afford to call 2♦, knowing you have an 8 card fit. But can you? Normally, you would be transferring to hearts over the notrump bid. You just have to hope partner works it out that you don't REALLY want to play in RHO's suit. And now the Laurel & Hardy method comes in, because partner accepts the "transfer!" You have no option but to rebid your diamonds. Fortunately 3♦ makes ... barely. Yes, partner did hold 19 balanced.

Quote for the month: "Don't be afraid to go out on a limb. That's where the fruit is." (Jackson Browne)

Until next month ...