

Pomona-Covina Unit News

March 2019

Unit Game: Saturday March 16, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, March 2, 9:30 a.m., San Dimas

Possibly the most significant news from the Unit is that Intermediate-level lessons have restarted. Still held at the Knights of Columbus hall on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., they are being led by Yours Truly. Cost is \$8 for the two-hour session.

And ... following the lessons, we will be holding a SANCTIONED game. Hands will be prepared to illustrate lesson material ... with of course some random deals thrown in to confuse the issue. It will be a short game, on the order of 14 boards or so, to allow time for discussion. Lesson attendees will play for no additional charge; all are of course welcome, for a small table fee (\$2). So ... if you've been looking for a sanctioned game nearby, your prayers have been answered. The game is expected to start shortly after 11:00 a.m., finishing up by 1:00 p.m.

The top finisher in the February Individual was Susie Emminger, with a 64.58% effort. Margie Hall was close behind, followed by Steve Mancini, Clint Lew, with Sofi Kasubhai and Dale Quasny tying for the final spot on the leader board.

The February Unit game was won by Penny and Gino Barbieri, with a score of 61.5%. A real close contest! Fredy and Lulu Minter were second, Bill Papa – Vic Sartor tied with Tim and Eileen Finlay for third, and Kiran Kumar dragged Yours Truly into the fifth spot.

Again this month, three pairs reached the magic 65% mark. Fredy and Lulu Minter hit 71.73%; Clint Lew – Linda Tessier scored 67.5%, and Bill Papa – Vic Sartor had a relatively poor month, only hitting 65.97%.

Other winners were, Claudia Cochran, Richard Patterson, David Ochroch, Linda Stuart, Esther Johnson, Hanan Mogharbel, Dominique Moore, Amr Elghamry, and Joe Unis.

45 players won club-level masterpoints in January. Bill Papa and Vic Sartor, both with 4.99, Bill Papa and Vic Sartor, both with 4.99, topped the list. Clint Lew was just behind with 4.84. Next were, and Fredy and Lulu Minter, 4.17

No promotions this month. Oh well.

One of the nice things about Duplicate Bridge is that it removes the luck factor. Really? For our Hand-of-the-Month, we present possibly the unluckiest hand *ever*. Yours Truly held the following hand. IMPs, vulnerability irrelevant:

♠75 ♥QJ64 ♦Q107 ♣6432.

“So what,” I hear you thinking, “that’s my average hand!” Wait!

RHO deals and calls 2♣. LHO bids 2NT, alerted (10+ HCP). 4NT, 1 ace, and 7♠ closes out the auction. Well? Your lead ...

The “book” lead against a grand slam is, of course, a trump. That should not cost – declarer must have a spade suit from here to San Diego – but it’s unlikely to help. You aren’t going to lead a red suit, and possibly give up a trick (assuming declarer has a guess for a red queen). That leaves a club. That’s pretty ugly, too.

For better or for worse, you table the ♣4 (2nd best from a bad suit – no kidding!). Dummy comes down with ♣K1095. Oh-oh. Did you just pick up the ♣Q for declarer? No! Partner ruffs!! And

declarer's 15 tricks shrink to 12. 17 IMPs in, because your teammates made 7♠, not having received a club lead.

Now, I ask you – is that bad luck (for the opponents – YOU are happy!) or is that BAD LUCK??? Karapet would be jealous ... but not surprised.

Quote for the month: “If fifty million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing.”
(Anatole France)