

Pomona-Covina Unit News

March 2020

Unit Game: Saturday March 21,
11:00 a.m., Glendora
Individual: Saturday, March 7, Chino
STaC Games: March 3, 5, 6, 7

That's right, both La Fetra and Bridge41 have signed up for the silver-point STaC games this month. Entry fee will be boosted to \$8 at La Fetra, and \$4 at Bridge41. Those STaC sanction fees are simply ruinous, don't you know?

Even better: after a *l-o-o-o-n-g* hiatus, Unit 551 is returning to the Sectional scene. It will be a joint effort with Unit 516. The dates are May 29-30-31; the location, the Upland Women's Club in ... well, I don't have to spell it out, do I? The tournament flyer is available on the ACBL web site. Physical copies will be available soon at La Fetra, Bridge41, and the Knights of Columbus.

We will be presenting the annual Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards before the March Unit game. As in last year, we won't be mailing out awards (except in special circumstances), so if you can't make it to the game, you can pick up your award later at a club game. Or something.

In the sad news department, Clara Satterfield is leaving southern California at the end of this month, to be with her daughter in Louisiana. Please come join us at the game on Friday, March 20, to say "farewell" and scarf some cake-and-ice-cream.

Roger Boyar led the rest in the February Individual, with a score of 66.77%. Al Lax was second, Art Weinstein third, and Yours Truly was fourth.

The February Unit game was won in a cakewalk by Amr Elghamry – Gerard Geremia, with a score of 69.05%. They were more than 3 tops above the second place finishers, Steve Mancini and Your Correspondent. (To be fair, we *did* get some nice gifts, otherwise, meh, we'd have been down in the depths. After Amr and Gerard, the rest of the field was bunched up real closely.) Third place was taken by Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, and fourth by Claudia Cochran – Hanan Mogharbel.

February being a bit short, only 34 players won points, the total being 57.39. And to top it off, there was a great disturbance in the Force. Double-check though I might, the top club point gatherer last month was ... Your Correspondent, with a whopping 6.72. (To be fair, a lot of the heavy hitters didn't play much in February; an humble thing, but mine own.) Second was Amr Elghamry (4.01); then Clint Lew (3.88); Hanan Mogharbel (2.99); and Steve Mancini (2.72).

The top game in February was a 67.84% game by Bill Papa – Vic Sartor. Bill and Vic also scored 67.13%, with Kurt Triselmann – Yours Truly also topping 65% at 67.00%. There were two other scores over the magic 65% mark, both in Individual games: 74.43%, and 70.43%, both by ... well, modesty forbids. (Ah, the old bromide: "*If only I could partner myself ...*" Ahem.)

Other winners: Hanan Mogharbel, Linda Stuart, Clint Lew, Joe Unis, Marjorie Preston, Clara Satterfield, David Ochroch, Fredy Minter, and Lulu Minter.

No promotions to report this month.

This time, we have a wild one for you in the Hand-of-the-Month department. I'll give it to you from South's perspective, for maximum impact. Partner (North) deals, and opens 1♣. The opponents are silent (more on this, later). You are holding this collection:

♠ 4 ♥ KQJ10 ♦ K ♣ K875432.

Whether playing Standard or 2/1, 2♣ seems indicated, no? Partner's rebid is 3♥! Hmm, must be some shape over there. You make the obvious 4NT call, and partner responds 5♠, showing 2 key cards and the trump Queen (or extra length, of course). What? Partner jump-shifted and has only two Aces? Well, you are committed now (or perhaps one of both of you should be), so 6♥ it is. The opening lead is the ♦A, and partner quickly proceeds to wrap up all 13 tricks. Partner's hand? Take a gander:

♠ AKQ9875 ♥ A98543 ♦ none ♣ none.

That's right, a 7-6 monster. Partner's bidding seems reasonable; so does yours; but how do you get to the cold grand? It would be easier playing 2/1, but we were playing Standard. The hand also makes 7♠, as the missing spades are 3-2. Yoiks! Note that with North void in both minors, this grand comes home on the lofty total of 19 working HCP. The power of shape ...

One puzzling thing: East held *eight* diamonds to the AQJ, yet failed to enter the auction. East was no palooka, either. No comprendo!

Quote for the month: "If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything." (Mark Twain)