

Pomona-Covina Unit News

March 2022

Individual: March 5, 10:00 a.m., Upland
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Club Championships: March 8 and 11, La Fetra

STaC: March 22 and 25, La Fetra.

Unit Game: Saturday March 19, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

Somewhat unhappily, I am suspending the team games at La Fetra. I had high hopes, and the first few games went rather well. But three of the last four games got all *yngvied* up. In one game, I had an odd number of pairs – so we played pairs. Then I had 4¼ teams ... so we played with one five-person team. And then again I had 4½ teams, so we played pairs. What with the signup process confusing some people, and people getting ill or having other emergencies (imagine, one player had to cancel for the poor excuse that his father had passed away), It Just Was Not Working.

Perhaps I'll try again. Now, if someone *else* wants to try organizing team games? No? Ah, I thought so.

Yes, I have signed us up for the STaC in March, mit der hand records und everything! Because of the much larger sanction fee that is assessed for STaCs, I have to up the entry fee from \$5 to \$6. Still a bargain, and you can earn silver, red and gold points, too.

Winner of the February Individual was Kiran Kumar, at 59%. Clint Lew came in second, Stephen Andersen third, Roger Boyar fourth, Peter Kavounas fifth, and Kathy Malovos sixth to round out the leader board.

In the February Unit game, Amr Elghamry – Lulu Minter tore up the field with a fine 71.35% game. Bill Papa – Vic Sartor were second with “only” 64.06%. Tim and Eileen Finlay placed third, Clint Lew – Stephen Andersen fourth, and Susie Emminger – Yours Truly rounded out the leader board at fifth.

Only one rank advancement this month. Maria Marvosh is now a Sectional Master.

Our condolences go out to Steve Mancini, whose father passed away in February at the age of 101.

The top game at La Fetra in February was an incredible 82.29%, posted by Fredy and Lulu Minter. I guess the rest of us just mailed it in that day. Turnout was a bit light last month, and the only others to finish atop the leader board (in pairs play, that is), were Caryn Mason, Vic Sartor, and Bill Papa. Winners of the February team game: the five-player team of Stephen Andersen, Roger Boyar, Hanan Mogharbel, Clint Lew, and Yours Truly won 2½ of 4 matches to top the field.

Here's an moderately interesting hand that came up this month. You, the dealer, find yourself looking at

♠ 8 ♥ AQ97 ♦ KQ9862 ♣ 75.

Unprepossessing, yes, but definitely worth an opening bid. 1♦ it is!

LHO goes 1♠, partner makes a negative double, and RHO leaps to 4♠! Wowie! Frustrating: is RHO bidding to make, or preempting? Or both, maybe? Well, you don't have much defense against a spade game, at least not to take to the bank, so at favorable vulnerability, you (mentally) bite the bullet and put the 5♥ card on the table. LHO now goes 5♠. Evidently, this is a pinochle deck ... or maybe yours isn't the only shapely hand? Partner now bids 6♦, and you try not to look dismayed. LHO doubles, and that's that. The opening lead is the ♠A, and partner tables this dummy:

♠ 54 ♥ K1086 ♦ AJ10753 ♣ A.

The opening lead is the ♠A, which holds. You ruff the second spade, and when the hearts prove to be 3-2, you claim +1090. The opponents can make 11 tricks in spades, but not 12. Ah, the power of shape.

Not often do you get six-card trump support!

For my next hand, I thought of that other semi-balanced hand I promised you last month. Then this hand came up (on BBO) that made me wonder ... take a look before I describe what happened. West deals, no one vulnerable.

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ A 7 5 3 2	
	♥ K J 6	
	♦ 5 4	
	♣ Q 5 2	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ 4		♠ K Q 9 8
♥ A 9 3 2		♥ Q 10
♦ K 9 7 3		♦ Q J 10
♣ K 10 9 8		♣ 7 6 4 3
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ J 10 6	
	♥ 8 7 5 4	
	♦ A 8 6 2	
	♣ A J	

“So what,” I hear you cry. Well, after this one was over, E-W (my side, of course) were the ones crying. It was a 13-table game. At 10 tables, the deal was passed out. This isn't surprising, since no one has anything resembling an opening bid. North comes closest, I suppose. At the other three tables: (1) SOUTH opened, E-W played 1NT, and with everything lying well, +120 to E-W; (2) EAST opened, E-W got to 2♦, +90 to E-W; (3) NORTH opened, played 2♠, down 1, +50 to EW. So our disciplined bridge got us a fine 37.5%. Go figure!

Quote for the month: “Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not one bit simpler.” (Albert Einstein)