

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, May 16, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, May 2, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne Site

Biggest news for this month is that your Unit is once again participating in the Longest Day event. In case you missed the last two years, this is a nation-wide fund raiser in support of the Alzheimer's Association (AA). It's not restricted to bridge – all sorts of sports and games sign up to participate – but in our case, we will be holding two pairs games on Monday, June 22. Yes, yes, the summer solstice is on June 21 (at 9:39 a.m. PDT, if you *really* want to pin it down), but that is Father's Day, so the ACBL is extending the event into Monday. We will be playing at our usual unit game site, the Knights of Columbus hall in Glendora. Games are at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Nominal entry fee is \$6 but of course this is a fund raiser so donations to the AA are encouraged. Note that ALL entry fees go to the AA – neither your unit nor the ACBL (so far as I know!) retain any money from this. One important difference this year: we will not be pre-ordering lunches for purchase by the players. We've tried to schedule the games to allow everyone a change to grab a fast bite to eat somewhere. The usual snacks and beverages will be on hand, of course. Stay tuned to this station for more information.

The April Individual was won by Clint Lew, followed by Jeddud Cartagena, Tom Lill, Linda Tessier, and Sofi Kasubhai and Rona Schneider tying for the fifth spot. The May game will be a FunD game, in support of district-wide events such as Grand National Teams. This means it will pay extra master points – with NO additional entry fee. How can you lose? (Well, for *some* of us, that just comes naturally ...)

The March Unit Game was taken by Ken Lowenthal - Steve Dorse. Following were Genise Hasan - Linda Ananea, Kiran Kumar - Anand Kumar, Margaret Merritt - Kerry Sartor and Richard Patterson - Roger Boyar. April's Unit game was captured by Bill Papa - Vic Sartor, with Janet Wickersham - Kevin Lane taking second, Karen Olin - Karen McCarthy in third, Dan Botoaca - Amr Elghamry fourth, and Clinton Lew - Patricia Radamaker rounding out the leader board.

Promotions this month: Roger Ginsburg to Junior Master; Kai Liu and Dale Quasny to Club Master; Hanan Mogharbel to NABC Master; and Sherman Gao to Silver Life Master.

The top game in open pairs this month was a whopping 75.0 % effort by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa. again. It wasn't the top score overall, though: Clint Lew scored 75.5% in our monthly Individual. Other winners: Richard Patterson, Hanan Mogharbel, Kurt Trieselmann, Penny Barbieri, Claudia Cochran, Susie Emminger, Genise Hasan, Gayle Ginsburg, Pat Radamaker, Jeanette Lynn, Paul Chrisney, Sandy Jones, Sofi Kasubhai, Barbara Killebrew, Lulu Minter, Fredy Minter, Karen Olin, Karen McCarthy, Roger Boyar, Mary Miller, and Yours Truly.

Sad to relate, just as we were going to press, unit member Ron Porter passed away (Saturday, April 18) after a long illness. I'm sorry to say I did not know Ron too well –

just meeting him at unit and individual games – be I'd say he was a fine fellow, and will be missed by all who knew him.

Our hand-of-the month this time is a little different – an exercise in delayed frustration. You'll see. With RHO having bid spades, you are declaring 4♥ on the following layout:

♠ J63 ♥ QT2 ♦ AJ76 ♣ Q95 (dummy)
♠ Q84 ♥ AKJ94 ♦ Q ♣ AK82 (you).

As expected, the opening lead is a spade. RHO cashes ♠A and ♠K, and gives LHO the expected ruff. Back comes a nondescript diamond. The defenders are competent, and the size of the diamond gives nothing away. You have to find a place to park your fourth club. Over to you.

Well, you could run the diamond to your Queen, but RHO is likely (not certain) to have the King. You could hope for a 3-3 club break – against the odds. Anything else come to mind?

Yes. Win the ♦A, ruff a diamond with the ♥9, small trump to dummy's Queen, ruff a diamond with the Jack, ♥A, small club to the Queen, ruff a diamond with your last trump. Trumps were 3-2, so you can cash the ♣AK and the ♥10 takes the last trick.

Big deal, you say. A garden-variety dummy reversal. So why is this an exercise in frustration?

Because Mrs Guggenheim, Timothy the Toucan, Brother Aelred, and everyone else will make this contract. The diamond hook wins. Clubs are 3-3. Trumps are 3-2 with the long trump getting the ruff. Unless you had money on the opponents, you cannot fail to make this hand no matter what you do. And you planned the play soooooooooo carefully!

Quote for the Month: "I can't say I was ever lost, but I was bewildered once for three days." (Daniel Boone)

Until next month ...