

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, May 20, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, May 6, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

Our Unit this month falls after the submission deadline for this article. Sorry about that. Look for two sets of results next time.

In the April Individual, Al Lax again outdistance the field. Hmmm, getting to be a regular occupant there. Handicaps, anyone? (Actually, ACBLScore won't let you run an Individual as a handicap event. Of course there are Ways to adjust the score ... heh heh heh.) The event was closely contested: Roger Boyar and Linda Tessier tied for second, with Clint Lew and Margie Hall tying for fourth.

Given the date on which the April game was held ... the Director decided to have some fun. Contestants were presented with four ... interesting! ... hands: the Duke of Culbertson's Hand, the Mississippi Heart Hand, the deal from the Bennet Murder case, and a hand from Victor Mollo's (actually published by Phillip and Robert King) "The Hog in the 21st Century." The hand was played by Walter the Walrus in 1NT ... when 7♥ is cold as the cards lie! If you don't know the three "real" deals, hit Google immediately if not sooner. And the book is worth reading, also.

The May Individual will be a FunD game. If that means nothing to you ...well, think "extra master points." No extra entry fee! A portion of the take goes to support the District's North American Pairs and Grand National Teams entrants.

The top score this month was 70.63%, posted by Fredy and Lulu Minter. That just edged out Linda Stuart – Hanan Mogharbel at 70.13%. Others topping the leader board were Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Richard Patterson, Walt Otto, Pat Radamaker, Karen Olin, and Mary Miller.

Not a single promotion to report this month. First time in a *long* time for that!

Don't forget about The Longest Day, coming up next month. If you wish to donate, you can do so most easily by visiting <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>.

Our Hand-of-the-Month this time is a double feature, entitled "Falling in Love with Your Hand." One is a "please do," the other is a "please don't." Here we go:

Sitting East, vulnerable against not, you deal and find yourself looking at

♠ A7 ♥ AKQJ8642 ♦ none ♣ J82

Decisions, decisions! It's a bit heavy for 4♥, and perhaps a bit thin for 2♣. As it turns out, if you open 1♥ the opponents will enter the auction via Michaels and find their 5♣ contract, making unless you get an unlikely diamond lead. So for laughs let's open 2♣. The auction will continue thus:

East	South	West	North
2♣	pass	2♦ (1)	pass
2♥	pass	2NT / 3♣ (2)	pass

?

- (1) waiting
- (2) bust hand – no trump support, no Ace, King, void, or singleton

Yuck. You have nine tricks in hand – and that’s what you’re going to wind up with, since partner seems trickless. Don’t fall in love with this hand – sign off in 3♥ and take your plus score! It will be a top.

Now for the second half of our double feature. Sitting South, as dealer, at favorable vulnerability, you pick up

♠ AJT97 ♥ none ♦ A7 ♣ QJ9872

It looks like a normal 1♠ opening, and that’s what you do. LHO overcalls 2♥, partner raises to 2♠, and RHO jumps to 4♥. And you?

It’s pretty clear the opponents have a massive Heart fit, and partner doesn’t rate to have more than one defensive trick for your side. 4♠ it is. Pass, pass, 5♥, and ... ?

NOW it’s time to fall in love with your hand. It’s even less likely that partner has wasted values in Hearts, so go 5♠. Even if it’s off 3 somehow, you show a profit, assuming 5♥ makes. (It does, unless the opponents cash the ♠A at trick 1.)

Your birthday comes early when partner puts down

♠ Q863 ♥ A93 ♦ QT6 ♣ 643

So far so good, but it gets better! The opening lead is the ♣A, followed by a low Diamond. You guess to stick in the ♦10, and RHO contributes the ♦K! No diamond losers. You lead your ♦7 to dummy and run the ♠Q ... which holds! Clubs divide 1-3 (needless to say the Ace was stiff) and so 11 tricks roll home on a paltry 20 HCP. If you had misguessed the Diamonds, your loser would go on the ♥A.

Quote for the Month: “Economy is a way of spending money without getting any pleasure out of it.” (Armand Salacrou)

Until next month ...