

Pomona-Covina Unit News

May 2019

Unit Game: Saturday May 18, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, May 4, 9:30 a.m., Chino

La Fetra will be holding STaC games (i.e., paying silver points) on Tuesday May 7, Thursday May 9, and Friday May 10, at the usual times.

Unfortunately, the Wednesday lessons (and the game, afterward) have been suspended due to lack of participation. We'll try to get things going again ... stay tuned.

Here's an offer you *can* refuse ... if you want to. The Thursday evening La Fetra game has been ailing for a long time, but now it's on life support. In order to build attendance at this game, consider this: if you haven't played in a Thursday game recently ... oh, say, since January 1 of this year ... come play on Thursday, and then play Friday morning for FREE! Eligible players will remain eligible, i.e., if you come on a Thursday, that won't kick in the "since January 1" exclusion. This offer will be good until further notice, but at least through the summer months. We'll be figuring out some perk to reward those players who *have* been supporting the Thursday game, also; we just haven't decided what, yet. BTW, the play-for-free-on-Friday offer is non-transferrable, and applies only to consecutive Thursday-Friday games. We must also exclude The Longest Day games on June 21, of course.

The top finisher in the April Individual was Linda Tessier, with a whopping 72.73% game. Paul Chrisney was second, Yours Truly third, and Penny and Gino Barbieri tied for the fourth spot.

The April Unit game was won by Fredy and Lulu Minter, with 63.33%. In second we Bill Papa – Vic Sartor followed by Chuck Lohr – Yours Truly, then Joseph Viola – Amr Elghamry. Margie Hall – Steve Mancini took first in Flight B.

Only one pair was able to crack the 65% mark in April. Vic Sartor – Bill Papa blistered the field with a 72% game. Other club game winners were, Claudia Cochran, Marjorie Preston, Linda Stuart, Roger Boyar, Steve Mancini, Esther Johnson, Kurt Trieselmann, Ed Lechner, Roy Wilson, Hanan Mogharbel, David Ochroch, Chuck Lohr, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Fredy and Lulu Minter.

The top 5 masterpoint earners in March were Vic Sartor tying with Bill Papa, 4.12; Roger Boyar, 2.92; Richard Patterson, 2.69; and Gino Barbieri, 2.55.

No promotions to report this month: However, at least one of our members headed south to the San Diego Regional, so we expect some significant news here next month.

For our hand of the month, we have an exhibit from the Chamber of Horrors. Yes, yes, Walpurgis Night was last month (April 30), and Halloween isn't until October. We report these things as we find them ...

You are South, with Yours Truly kibitzing, and you pick up one of the worst hands we've ever seen dealt:

♠976 ♥76532 ♦72 ♣542.

Not only a Yarborough, but only one 9 and no 8s! Yuck! Heck, not even all four deuces so you can claim "deuces around." Partner deals and, of course, opens 1NT. *Just* what you wanted to hear. (Well, maybe 2♣ would have been worse.) At least you do have a five card major to transfer into, but since partner has only ♥Q9, there's not much hope. At least the trumps split 3-3!

Just for fun, let's invert the hand. That is, deuces become Aces, treys become Kings, and so on. What would we be holding in that case? Look:

♠1097 ♥AKJ109 ♦A9 ♣AQJ.

Not a bad-looking 19-count, is it? Oh well ... some nights, if it weren't for bad luck, we'd have no luck at all!

As a bonus, and continuing the Chamber of Horrors theme, we bring you the Auction from Hell. Sitting West, you are treated to this auction by North-South:

South	North
1♣ ⁽¹⁾	1♥ ⁽²⁾
2♦	2♥
3♥	4NT
5♠ ⁽³⁾	6♥
7♥	\$%!@ ⁽⁴⁾

- (1) Artificial, 17+ HCP
- (2) Positive, 5+ hearts, 9+ HCP, game forcing
- (3) 2 key cards + ♥Q
- (4) No, not really, but that's what went through his mind!

As a bonus to this mess, East doubled! It turns out six is a lock, but poor North, reading East for ♥Jxxx (in which case he was always one down), tried to set up dummy's diamonds for a spade discard, his only legitimate loser. East in fact had only three hearts but still made the ♥J by ruffing the third diamond.

The reason for South's 7♥ bid? He had miscounted his key cards, showing two when he had three. Better lucky than good, for East-West!

Quote for the month: "The best thing about a good education is that you're always in on the joke." (Sarah Thomas)