

Pomona-Covina Unit News

May 2020

Unit Game: Saturday May 16 - hopefully

11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: TBD

Sigh. Our main playing site is still closed (completely) until May 15, at least. So there will be *no* club games held until at least May 19. If the situation changes, I will let those of you on my email list know as soon as I find out.

As expected, but which I just found out about, our joint Sectional tournament with Unit 516 is CANCELLED. Better luck next time, I guess.

The March Unit game was of course cancelled, due to our playing site's closure. *If* we are able to hold the *May* game, we will be presenting the 2019 awards at that time.

Unless I figure out how to extract masterpoint totals from BBO, I can't report anything along these lines. Sorry!

Speaking of BBO – I have requested a La Fetra session for BBO, but they haven't responded. I will keep plugging for this. Either I'm doing something wrong or they are still swamped. BBO experts, I could use some help here.

There are possibilities for teaming up on BBO with another Unit ... I'm investigating, and also want YOUR feedback on whether you'd like this, dislike it, or are neutral. Let me know, please: tomlill@twc.com.

No promotions to report again this month. Not surprising, really, with play so limited.

Since I haven't actually played bridge in well over a month (NOT a big fan of online play!) I've had to reach *way* back (14 years, in fact) for a somewhat interesting hand. This is another exhibit from the Laurel and Hardy School of Bridge. At favorable vulnerability, you, East, deal and open 1NT holding

♠ AJ42 ♥ AJ82 ♦ J6 ♣ A52.

Not the best 15 count you've ever held, but three aces are nothing to sneeze at, either. With the opponents silent (for a change), partner transfers with 2♦, you bid 2♥, partner calls 3NT, and you have an obvious 4♥ bid. All pass, and after the opening lead of the ♣7, partner somewhat sheepishly faces this dummy:

♠ K863 ♥ 953 ♦ A1087 ♣ K3.

Partner 'fesses up that he pulled the wrong bidding card and meant to bid 2♣, Stayman. Oh well, time to lie back and think of England; 4♥ is the contract.

You win trick one with the ♣K; then 3♣ to ♣A and a club ruff. Next you play the ♥3 to the ♥8, and are pleasantly surprised when this is taken by the ♥K. Winning the spade return with the ♠J; and laying down the ♥A and playing another heart, there is no further problem in winning 11 tricks ... to the obvious disgust of the (expert-level) opponents. The entire hand is shown on the next page.

Of course, the field is in 4♠, making four or five, depending on how they played the hearts. Better lucky than good!

	♠ Q 5	
	♥ Q 10 6	
	♦ K 9 4 2	
	♣ Q 10 6 4	
♠ K 8 6 3		♠ A J 4 2
♥ 9 5 3		♥ A J 8 2
♦ A 10 8 7		♦ J 6
♣ K 3		♣ A 5 2
	♠ 10 9 7	
	♥ K 7 4	
	♦ Q 5 3	
	♣ J 9 8 7	

Quote for the month: “Life can be cruel, and it is ultimately tragic, but mostly it is wonderful, or would be if we’d allow it to be.” (Poul Anderson)