

Pomona-Covina Unit News

May 2021

Individual: Saturday May 1, 9:30 a.m., Upland

Unit Game: Saturday May 15, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

Unit Board Meeting: 10:00 a.m. before the game

Good News / Bad News regarding the Individual game! We've restarted it. Unfortunately, *this* month the first Saturday falls on the first of the month, meaning by the time you receive this masterpiece, the game will be history. But stay tuned for future game sites and dates.

Even Gooder News: the Unit game is back! We got word in mid-April, but that was too late to hold an April game. So we will restart the festivities on the usual 3rd Saturday this month.

But (there's always a But these days), our rent has gone up. By 50%, in fact. No complaints, we are still getting a bargain price. But we *do* have to raise the entry fee up to \$9 per person. Please remember: we haven't raised the fee for quite a few years. And, the game is not a money-maker for the Unit. OK, OK, the game's Director gets paid a pittance. Would anyone would like to take over this usually thankless task? We'll be *very happy* to give you the Director's test!

And, we need *your* support. Six tables is our break-even point, with fewer tables we lose a bit. If we start out by having a succession of 3- and 4-table games ... well, pfui, no one wants that.

The New Unit Game Rules: you don't need to show proof of vaccination, although getting that done is a whopping good idea. You must wear either a mask OR a face shield. Snacks will all be of the individually-wrapped, unit-dose (to borrow some pharmacy jargon from the wife) type. There'll still be coffee, water, and sodas.

Advance signups are appreciated but not mandatory. Just let one of our Board members know you plan to come. A good choice would be to send an email to thomasmlill8@gmail.com.

And even Much More Gooder News: F2F pairs play is back! No, La Fetra is still keeping *schtum* about when they will reopen. But we've gotten a sanction for a Monday, 12:30 pairs game. It's at the home of Rose Roberts, in Upland. But there are some Rules to follow (another one of those darned Buts):

1. We are space limited. So advance signups are a must. Call Rose (909-946-8132) or send me an email AT LEAST ONE DAY beforehand. Walk-ins will be seated as space permits.
2. Masks or face shields are mandatory. We have a few extras on hand – but bring your own, please. Vaccination isn't required at this time ... but it's a Very Good Idea.
3. In our first trial games, we've seated quite a few casual, "party bridge" players. So you Very Good Players: when these people hesitate or commit some similar infraction ... they are NOT trying to cheat you. They simply do not know any better. Tolerance, please. Education, not Indignation, is the answer. If we get complaints about boorish behavior at the table – we can, and will, suspend those players for cause.
4. Unit-dose snacks and water are available. No sodas. Que lastima, amigos.

5. The entry fee will be \$3 per player.

Directions to the playing site are on our Unit web site.

Speaking of emails: those of you getting the semi-regular (now what on earth does *that* term mean, really?) Bridge Alert updates – the old email from which it has been coming has been phased out by the time you read this. In spite of repeated attempts, many on the list have not responded to the update request. So if you don't send a request to the new email (hint: see previous paragraph) soon, you'll be dropped from the list.

You may, or may not know this: Mojo is planning on merging the PPDVBC with the other multi-club VBC in the district. Read his column further down for details, please. Of importance those those (few) of us who have been playing in the PPDVBC – the entry fee rebates I've been getting (as club manager of two of the clubs in the pool) are going to get mostly rebated back to those who have supported the club. When the merger happens, I'll start the accounting from scratch at that point, since the money breakdown will likely be different. The rebate to the players can be applied at La Fetra (if & when), or Bridge41 games.

Back to the “well there aren't any rank changes this month” scenario.

This month, Hand-of-the-Month returns to the “Why Me?” school. The following two deals occurred – consecutively, no less – during a BBO casual game. Both times, Yours Truly was one of the victims. Well, at least we weren't playing for money.

First, a real gem of a deal. I was the dealer, East, with none vulnerable:

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

I opened 1♠, and after three passes, proceeded to wrap up 12 tricks for an embarrassing +230. The Questions: playing 2/1, is that West dog worth a forcing 1NT followed by a 2♠ preference if necessary? Or, playing Standard, is it worth a direct 2♠ bid? Finally, that East hand is a 4-loser hand, but is it really, truly worth a 2♣ opening with four Aces and nine spot cards?

There were 12 tables in play, and most got to game somehow. One enterprising pair even got to the making slam! Nice, with 19 HCP between the two hands (one point of which is useless). Of course there *is* some shape!

Now try this one on for size. I'm still East, with both sides vulnerable this time:

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

West opened 2NT, and after I bid Stayman (not Puppet), we wound up in 4♥. +710.
Now the questions:

1. Is that West hand really too strong for 2NT? 21 HCP and a really good 5 card heart suit. Well?
2. Was I chicken to sign off in 4♥? The East hand counts to 11, West has promised 20-21, As always, I guessed wrong.
3. Should we have been playing Puppet Stayman? That sure makes it easier to get to the small slam (the grand is a poor bet).

Whadaya gonna do!?!

Quote for the month: "I'm glad to see so many children in the crowd. You should be grateful because I got you a day off school! [Child: Today is Saturday!]" (Thomas Dewey, to a group of children)