

Pomona-Covina Unit News

May 2022

Individual: May 7, 10:00, Ontario

June 4, 10:00, Ontario

STaC Games: May 3, 6, and 7

Club Championships: May 10 and 13, La Fetra

Unit Game: Saturday May 21, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

In the April Individual – it was a three way tie! Peter Kavounas, Susie Emminger, and Arthur Wallace all posted a 61.9% game, not leaving much for the rest of us!

With the Individual returning to Ontario for a while, the rec room we had been using has been restored to use, with brand new SQUARE tables! Remember, it is a STaC this month, so the entry fee will be \$2 more than usual. (The same applies to the STaC games at La Fetra.)

In the April Unit game, Fredy and Lulu Mintor took top honors with a 65.84% effort. Bill Papa – Vic Sartor were second, Larry Shannon – Harrish Singh third, and Eddie Rose - Ann Gillespie fourth. Perhaps because we were presenting the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards, we got to run our first Mitchell movement in over two years. Now if we can only keep it up ...

The Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races gave rise to some interesting statistics. Well, sort of interesting. Of course the statistics got skewed a bit because there was little or no F2F play in 2020-2021. Here's some trivia gleaned from the races:

The narrowest win (Ace of Clubs) was 0.05 points, and (Mini-McKenney) was 0.77 points.

The lowest winning totals were 0.84 (Ace) and 1.61 (MM).

The largest totals were 161.79 (Ace) and 190.86 (MM). That Ace of Clubs winner was in the 200-300 point bracket, by the way.

Three of our members took top honors not only in our Unit, but in the District races. See Mike Marcucci's article in the SCBN.

We have once again signed up for The Longest Day. We will hold a single-session fundraising game on Friday, June 24, 8:45 a.m. (our normal start time). ALL funds received are donated to the Alzheimer's Association. The entry fee for this special game – awarding extra masterpoints – will be \$7. If you can't make the game, but wish to donate, please visit <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>.

Two rank advancements this month. Peter Kavounas has taken the first step upwards, to Club Master. Caryn Mason has advanced to Regional Master.

There were so many impressive scores this month I'll have to list more than one. The very top score at La Fetra in March was 72.22%, posted by Vic Sartor – Bill Papa. In that same contest, Caryn Mason – Patrick Finley scored 70.63% to finish *second*. Now there's something you don't see everyday, Chauncy¹. Other impressive scores, all first place finishes of course, were 68.75% (Roger Boyar, Steve Mancini), 67.82% (Mary Ann Wotring – Patrick Finley), 67.46% (Vic Sartor – Bill Papa), and 67.36% (Clint Lew – Linda Tessier). Other winners not quite achieving those lofty heights: Fredy and Lulu Minter, Sofi Kasubhai, Gary Atwell, Hanan Mogharbel, and Yours Truly.

For our first hand-of-the-month, we present a hand which is just plain fun. Well, it was for me, at least. The opponents weren't quite as amused. Sitting South, at favorable vulnerability, with East dealing and passing, you find yourself holding

♠ A ♥ 8652 ♦ K1075432 ♣ Q.

Well, Charles Goren would have frowned, but what the heck, I decided to damn the torpedoes and open 3♦. Pass, pass, 3♠; pass, 4♠. Partner – a forward bidder if there ever was one – now chimed in with 5♦. Pass, pass, 5♠, 6♦! Oh well, perhaps it is time to lie back and think of England, what? Double, and passed out from there.

The opening lead was a spade (imagine that!), and I got a look at dummy:

♠ 2 ♥ A4 ♦ QJ98 ♣ AKJ1096.

Making 6, +1090! Lucky, I guess. In spades, E-W lose one trump, one heart, no diamonds, and three clubs provided we get them before their hearts are established. So there's no good sacrifice for them at these colors. Ah, the power of shape.

For our second entry, here's that not-semi-balanced-hand you've all been waiting for: East deals, opens 3♠, and you, South, have to decide what to do with:

♠ AQ7 ♥ A106 ♦ A73 ♣ Q865.

Oh, yes, we are vulnerable, the opponents are not.

Well, you have enough to double, but your hand really screams "notrump," does it not? So I invoked Hamman's Rule and called 3NT, passed out. The opening lead was a small diamond. Dummy flopped with

♠ J109652 ♥ 43 ♦ Q64 ♣ 97.

Well! It's rather surprising that partner didn't go 4♠, given the known 8-card fit! Hmmmm. "With my shield, or on it!"

Not surprisingly, dummy's ♦Q held the trick, and when I played spades, East had the stiff King! So 9 tricks rolled home.

And how did others fare? The hand was played nine times. At seven tables, the contract was a spade partial, scoring anywhere from +730 (3♠X) to minus 100 (3♠, 1 down). And someone sold out to 3♠, which made for -110.

I guess this hand definitely belongs in the "better lucky than good" category. I must confess that had I held partner's cards I would have gone 4♠. Presumably I was the only one to invoke the Rule. And partner showed a *lot* of faith!

Quote for the month: "Genius is more often found in a cracked pot than in a whole one." (E. B. White)

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¹ One of the running gags from "Rocky and Bullwinkle." Surely, you remember! Or did Jay Ward live in vain? And OK, OK, I won't call you Shirley any more.