

Pomona-Covina Unit News

Individual: May 6, 10 a.m., Upland
June 3, 10 a.m., Ontario
Unit Game: May TBD, 11:00 a.m., TBD
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game
STaC: May 2, 5, 6
Club Championships: May 16, 19
Upgraded Club Championships: May 23, 26
Longest Day: Friday, June 23, La Fetra

In the April Individual, Kiran Kumar took top honors with 68.18%. Steve Andersen was second, Linda Tessier third, and Don Logsdon tied for fourth with Paul Chrisney.

The STaC being held the first week of May is a “Royal STaC,” meaning that the masterpoints will be ¼ each black, red, silver, and gold. This includes the monthly Individual game.

There were quite a few big games last month, enough to present them bullet-list form:

71.39%	Vic Sartor – Bill Papa
70.19%	Fredy Minter – Lulu Minter
69.64%	Amr Elghamry – Lulu Minter
69.41%	*Tom Lill – Hanan Mogharbel
67.84%	Fredy Minter – Lulu Minter
67.25%	Vic Sartor – Bill Papa
65.48%	Roger Boyar – Fredy Minter

*Our 69.41% game was only good for *second place*. Can you believe it?

The only other first-place pair not already listed is Caryn Mason – Art Weinstein.

In the April Unit Game, Vic Sartor – Bill Papa took the top spot with 65%. Second we find Karen Olin – Karen McCarthy, then Stephen Andersen – Paul Chrisney, Mary Ann Wotring – Rosalie Roberts, and finally Fredy and Lulu Minter.

The date and site of the May Unit game are still up in the air at press time. Watch for your Bridge Alert! message (you don’t get those? WHY NOT?). It will be either May 13 or May 20. If May 20, it will probably be at Gary A’s complex. If on the 13, it will probably be at the Knights of Columbus. Sorry – everything is in an uproar right now!

Alas, after polling the players, we were planning to move our Unit games to the Friendship Center at my apartment complex. Then I learned that it will be closed for refurbishment in May, June, and probably July! TANJ! So we will be returning to the Knights of Columbus until further notice (with the caveat from the previous paragraph). The rec room at Gary A’s is certainly cheaper, rent-wise, but it was unpopular with the players, being rather small, cramped, and noisy. Ah, well.

We have one promotion to announce: Art Weinstein is now a Club Master. Keep up the good play, Art.

Tentatively, La Fetra will be holding seven more Club Championship weeks this year, on these dates:

May 16, 19	September 12, 15
June 13, 16	October 17, 20
July 18, 21	November 28
August 15, 18	December 1

We are also entitled to hold two “Upgraded Club Championships,” which will be (again, tentatively) held May 23 and 26, and October 10 and 13.

I say “tentatively,” because, as we all know, Life Happens.

Roger’s Wednesday morning lessons have been expanded. He now presents beginner material at 8:00 a.m., and segues into the regular material (“intermediate”) as appropriate.

It appears that not too many of us trucked down to San Diego for the Regional last month. I found results for seven Unit 551 members, who combined for a total of 76.39 masterpoints. Most of these – 60.53, which is 79% of the total – went to Clint Lew, who, playing bracketed Swiss all week, finished 1st, 2nd, and 3rd (3 times). A distant second in the race was Hanan Mogharbel, finishing 3rd in a bracketed Swiss to bring home 9.31 points. The rest of us – yes, Yours Truly was there – racked up a few dlibs and drabs, nothing to write home about.

Our District held a Board meeting in April, and here a few things of interest to relate:

- The Pro-Am event during Bridge Week is *always* short of Pros! There are a lot of fine players in our unit; we can use you to help encourage the Ams. Here’s how desperate the situation can get: during the first Pro-Am some years ago, they recruited *me* ... as a *Pro*! I had something like 330 masterpoints at the time. So, friends, give something back to this game you love. You can do it! (And Pros play free ...)
- Thanks to a fund raising drive, the District is solvent again ... for now.
- John Jones is replacing Jan Wickersham as District VP, until elections of officers is held in July. Sadly, Jan resigned for health reasons.
- There’s an error in the Bridge Week flyer ... self-park will be \$10, not \$9 as stated in the flyer.

Bridge Week flyers seem to be in short supply out here in the hinterlands, but you can always retrieve a copy from the ACBL web site. I usually have a copy posted at each of our games.

Now for the final (for now) installment of “Doesn’t This Game Drive You Bonkers?” For a change, Yours Truly was the beneficiary of the Bridge Gods’ humor (maybe “sadism” would fit better), instead of the victim. With both vulnerable, RHO deals and opens 2NT. You, East, find yourself holding:

♠ K ♥ K32 ♦ J97532 ♣ 1083

and are treated to this auction:

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
pass	pass	2NT	pass
3♣	pass	3♠	pass
4♠	all pass		

Okay, what to lead? Before looking at the entire deal, decide what *you* would lead. Nothing really stands out (to me!), but a lead of either major is unappealing. (Make that “suicidal.”) Let’s try the ♦9, second best from a poor suit. Ready for some fun? The full deal:

<u>North</u>		
	♠ A Q 6 4	
	♥ J 9	
	♦ A K Q 6	
	♣ Q J 7	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ J 9 5 2		♠ K
♥ A 7 6 5		♥ K 3 2
♦ none		♦ J 9 7 5 3 2
♣ A 8 6 5 4		♣ 10 8 3
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ 10 8 7 3	
	♥ Q 10 8 4	
	♦ 10 8 4	
	♣ K 2	

North, a confirmed optimist, evidently liked his concentrated honors and did not discount the ♥J9. But the punishment surely did not fit the crime, if crime it was. West ruffed the opening lead, and played the ♥A followed by the ♥5 as I “encouraged” with the ♥3. Another diamond, the ♣A, and a second club, taken in dummy. Now a trump to the Queen, losing to the stiff King, and yet *another* diamond ruff! At this point, the defense had shot its wad, but that was *seven* tricks lost, down a cruel *four*, 400 to E-W. Believe it or not, this was not a top board for East-West! One lucky E-W pair played 1♥X (don’t ask *me!*), making three despite holding only 16 HCP between them, +560. Go figure! But the look on poor North’s face at my table was priceless to behold.

Quote for the month: “A fool must now and then be right by chance.” (George Santayana)