

Pomona-Covina Unit News

May 2026

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
Claremont Bridge Club: Thursdays 9:30
Individual: June 6, 10:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Pairs Game: May 16, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Team Game: June 13, 9:30 a.m., Ontario
The Longest Day: June 19, 8:45 a.m., La Fetra
Unit Pairs Game: June 20, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

Please note that what used to be called “The Longest Day” is now called “Do What You Love to End Alzheimer’s. But that’s too long for the block above here, so ...

Our fundraiser will be Friday, June 19, the regular La Fetra game. We’ll be asking for DONATIONS of \$10 per player for this event. ALL entry fees will go to the Alzheimer’s Association, as the Director will be paid what he’s worth ... OK, an old joke. Not sorry though. You know me!

Here’s the link for online donations:

<https://events.alz.org/fundraisers/thomaslill/unit-551-acbl-do-what-you-love-to-end-alz>

It seems to me that I have not perpetrated a truly awful joke in some time, so here goes. The answer will be found after our Quote for the Month: If April showers bring May flowers, what to May flowers bring?

In the May Individual, Yours Truly eked out a win with a paltry 59.38% game. Art Weinstein was breathing down my neck for 2nd, followed closely by Peter Kavounas and Nony Bernal. Next we find Clint Lew and Judy Mogharbel tied for 5th.

We had no promotions this month.

Thanks again to Patrick Finley, for collating the masterpoint statistics for April.

At La Fetra:

1	11.08	Fredy Minter
2	8.11	Amr Elghamry
3	7.38	Patrick Finley
4	7.28	Vic Sartor
5	5.91	Caryn Mason
6	5.52	Steve Mancini
7	5.01	Mary Ann Wotring
8	3.84	Tim Finlay
8	3.84	Eileen Finlay
10	3.52	David Raymond

And at the Claremont Bridge Club:

1	2.64	Patrick Finley
2	1.84	Steve Mancini
3	1.51	Steve Andersen
4	1.15	Duane Woodman

At La Fetra, three pairs again topped the magic 65% benchmark. Leading the rest were Fredy Minter – Amr Elghamry at 71.65%. Next, Fredy Minter – Judy Mogharbel at 70.83%, and Fredy and Lulu Minter with 67.19%. Other game winners were David Raymond and Art Weinstein.

Over in Claremont, three of the five winners topped the magic 65%. Best was a 71.8% game by Steve Mancini and Patrick Finley. Next we find Ramona Hernandez – Steve Andersen at 69.44%, and then Sofi Kasubhai – Tom Cusack at 68.25%. Yours Truly – Peter Kavounas were also winners.

This item is a bit late – it was given to me by Patrick Finley back in January, whereupon I promptly forgot about it. Here goes:

As many of you know, the ACBL is divided into 25 regional districts, 20 in the USA, four in Canada and one in Mexico. In each district there are three ‘races’ or competitions among its members. The Ace of Clubs Award recognizes players who earn the most black points in local, over-the-board club competition and seeks to ‘reward’ players who compete regularly at the club level. The Mini-McKenney award recognizes players who earn the most master points in sanctioned tournaments along with club games. The Ace of Virtual Clubs award recognizes players who earn master points in virtual club play online.

To encourage new and inexperienced players, each district honors fifteen categories of play, with honors going to players who begin the year with 0-5 master points, 5-20 points, and so on up to the highest level, those with 10,000 or more master points.

For District 23, which roughly corresponds to LA County, La Fetrians who placed highly in the district Ace of Clubs rankings include:

- 0-5 pts: *Louis Sterling placed 4th in the district with 22 black points in 2025
- 5-20 pts: Olivia Esquibel, 20th in the district with 14 pts
- 21-50 pts: Patrick Finley, 1st with 136 pts; David Raymond finished 10th with 32 pts
- 100-200 pts: Art Weinstein 9th with 43 pts; Dan Robinson 22nd with 31 pts
- 200-300 pts: Peter Kavounas 3rd with 67pts; Richard Parker 7th with 45 pts
- 300-500 pts: Caryn Mason 1st with 123 pts; Steve Mancini 10th with 49 pts; Duane Woodman 15th with 42 pts
- 500-1000 pts: Stephen Andersen 15th with 80 pts; 19th Ramona Hernandez with 73 pts; 20th Nona Stokes with 68pts; 22 Gary Atwell with 64 pts
- 1000-1500: Tom Lill, 20th with 68 pts
- 1500-2500 *Fredy Minter, 3rd with 206 pts; 20th Mary Ann Wotring with 83 pts
- 2500-3500: Vic Sartor, 9th with 114 pts; *Kiran Kumar, 21st with 60 pts
- 10,000 +: *Lulu Minter, 5th with 199 pts

* Not Unit 551 members, but regulars at our La Fetra and Unit games

Note that we have two Unit games next month: the first one, on 6/13, is a team game followed by a BBQ lunch. Note the earlier start time for the team game! Advance sign-up is required if you want to join us for the lunch, but walk-in teams are of course welcome.

I hope you enjoy this Hand of the Month, since it amused me. In a friendly (?) BBO match, as dealer, you hold this hand:

♠ K J 10 9 6 ♥ 5 ♦ 2 ♣ A J 10 7 6 5

Yes, still another of those semi-balanced hands I’m so fond of. Talk about a one-trick pony. Well, after all, how much interest can you find in a 4-3-3-3 hand?

So, do you open this thing? Walter the Walrus sees 9 HCP, only 1½ quick tricks, and passes. Not being of that school, I saw a 4-loser hand (KJ10 and AJ10 are both only one loser – work it out for yourself if you don’t believe it) and opened 1♠. I don’t recall the remaining auction, but I think partner made a limit

raise to 3♠. OK – 8 losers for that, my 4 loser hand – so 4♠ it is. I didn't record the opposing hands but here's the dummy I got:

♠ A Q 3 ♥ Q 10 9 4 3 ♦ A 9 5 4 3 ♣ none

The opening lead was the ♥7, won by RHO's Ace, followed by a diamond. So I took my two side aces and then rattled off 8 trump tricks on a complete cross-ruff. A nice swing at IMPs, since many others did not bid the game. As has been said before, shape is more important than high cards! Of course, it would be a lot harder on a trump lead ...

Quote for the month: "The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits."
(Barry Crane – also attributed to Albert Einstein)

Answer to the opening riddle: Pilgrims, of course!