

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, November 15, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, November 1, LaVerne Site

Catching up on unfinished business from last month, the winners of the September Unit game were Vic Sartor - Walt Otto. In second place (first in flight B) were Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson. Following them were Dave and Susan Ruoff, Penny Barbieri - Rosalie Roberts, and Denise Morgan - Karen McCarthy. Anand and Kiran Kumar took top honors in flight C.

We are very happy to report that the problems we encountered with the Bridge Mates in September have been worked out (and the solutions tested). In case you are curious, the problem was twofold. First, there was a “buried” setup instruction = off in another document entirely from the regular server setup – that got overlooked. Second, according to the League’s ACBL guru, the instructions in The Director’s Companion for setting up an Appendix game are wrong, Wrong, WRONG. In fact, they discourage the use of that book! *Now* they tell me ...

The October Individual was won by Rona Schneider, followed by Al Lax, Bob Kakade, Paul Chrisney, and Larry Clark. This was also the final game in the 2013-14 Championship Series, where the best performer (using an insane formula – don’t ask) gets his or her name on the perpetual plaque. It was another real close race this year. The top qualifiers, and their percentages:

Steve Mancini	57.8%
Tom Lill	57.1%
Richard Patterson	56.8%
Claudia Cochran	55.1%
Clint Lew	54.6%

Once again, the Unit game falls well after our publication deadline, so look for the winners of the annual two-session championship next time.

One promotion this month: Marjorie Preston is now a Club Master. Look for lots of promotions after the conclusion of the Torrance Regional, which is ongoing as I write this.

The top game this month was a 72.1% monster by Vic Sartor and Genise Hasan. (Yes, it was a “real” game, not one of those 2-1/2 table Howells.) Other first place finishers were Ann McClelland, Sandy Jones, Ron Purkis, Linda Tessier, Paul Chrisney, Lulu Minter, Fredy Minter, Charlotte Capelle, Hanan Mogharbel, Joe Unis, Clint Lew, Roger Boyar, Hans Hehnke, Penny Barbieri, Richard Patterson, Denise Morgan, and Cordell Goode.

This month’s entry for hand-of-the-month is one of those beauties that show just what a weird and unpredictable game we play. You find yourself looking at ♠ 983 ♥ 2 ♦ QT9863x ♣ A84. Your RHO ends up declaring 3NT after an auction of 1♣ – 1♥; 1NT – 3NT. You are all set to lead the ♦10 when out of the blue, partner doubles! You

aren't happy, but you obey instructions like a good little boy/girl and lead that little heart. Dummy flops with ♥J 8 6 3. Low from dummy, ♥Q from partner, declarer wins ♥A. Oh well, one more bottom won't hurt that much, will it?

Play continues. Declarer plays on clubs, removing your only sure entry, and now you can lead the ♦10, partner playing ♦K and declarer winning the ♦A after some thought.

Soon partner gets in (with a spade, if it matters), thinks, trusts you to not have any hearts left, and shoots out – a diamond! Declarer plays the ♦J, you win the ♦Q, and cash the rest of the suit. At the end, partner wins trick 13 with the ♥K. Down 5, not vulnerable, for sticks-and-wheels.

OK, what's so unusual about all that? Didn't you notice? Partner doubled and took three tricks. You took six tricks with your dog hand (five diamonds and the ♣A). How fair is *that*? (Note: declarer cannot stop the carnage by holding up the ♦A. He only has a doubleton, and partner has three.) (Maybe even more unusual: partner trusted you not to have any more hearts when you failed to lead one after taking your ace! How great is that!)

Quote for the month: since it is election time, we present you with this food for thought: “Diapers and Politicians should be changed often – both for the same reason.” (Original source unknown, to Your Correspondent at least)

Until next month ...

Oh yeah – “sticks and wheels” is 1100, if you didn't get it. Not my invention! Really!