

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, November 19, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, November 4, 9:30 a.m., La Verne Site

The calendar was against us this month, so we cannot give you the results of our annual two-session championship, nor can we give you the results of the Board of Directors' election. Next month, for sure.

In the October Individual, Albert Lax and Margie Hall tied for the top spot. Close behind them were Penny Barbieri, Bob Kakade, and Clint Lew. We start a new "fiscal" (whatever the term would be for a championship year other than a calendar year) this month. The overall championship goes to the player with the best overall percentage in his/her top six games. So come on out and play.

Speaking of which ... last month, we promised you the final results of the 2015-16 race. Drum roll, please! The top qualifiers (there were 17 players who attended six or more games) are:

Al Lax	60.9%
Clint Lew	58.2%
Roger Boyar	58.0%
Richard Patterson	55.7%
Steve Mancini	55.4%

Well, the Minters are at it again, racking up a 72.4% game. Ho hum. Other winners: Richard Patterson, Claudia Cochran, Gayle Ginsburg, Clint Lew, Sandy Jones, Penny Barbieri, Walt Otto, Hanan Mogharbel, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, John Barrow, Mary Miller, Chuck Lohr, Linda Tessier, Susie Emminger, Roger Ginsburg, David Ochroch, Dan Humphreys, Roger Boyar, and Yours Truly.

Last month, we mentioned the possibility of a joint sectional with the Downey-Whittier Unit. It turns out that Downey-Whittier has joined forces with Long Beach the past few years, so we are on our own. We'd still like to host a sectional ... it's been a long time ... so stay tuned for developments. And if you have any ideas (such as a not-too-expensive place to host the tourney), give us a call/email/test/loud shout, or something. YOUR input will be appreciated!

We have three promotions to report this month. Don Logsdon is a Sectional Master, Bob Kakade is a Regional Master, and Richard Patterson is now up in the high-rent district at Silver Life Master. Congratulations to you all.

For this month's Hand-of-the-Month, we present another gem from the Laurel and Hardy School of Bridge. Everyone except poor East, who was dealt 13 cards and little more, blundered. Whose was the worst blunder? You Make the Call! We'll look at it from South's perspective first. Vulnerable against not, you pick up

♠ K ♥ Q9876 ♦ Q7 ♣ T8765.

LHO deals and bids 1♠. Partner overcalls 2♥, pass, over to you. For better or for worse, you pass, and LHO reopens with 2♠. Partner now calls 2NT (!?!), pass, over to you.

Well, after brilliantly not raising hearts on your first turn, you puzzle out that partner has a huge hand with a spade honor, likely the Ace. Even if it's ♠Qxx, your ♠K is huge, so you bid 4♥. After three passes, RHO asks what 2NT meant.

Who knows for sure? No agreement on this auction, for sure, but partner likely has a good hand with that spade card. Sure enough, partner holds this moose:

♠ AJ6 ♥ AKJT6 ♦KT2 ♣ A4.

Zounds! Making 5, for a bit above average. (Some pairs didn't reach game.) OK, four questions for you:

1. Why didn't North double and then show the hearts?
2. Why, oh why, didn't South raise hearts at his first turn?
3. And why, oh why, oh why, didn't West, with a moth-eaten ♠QT9xxx, just pass 2♥ and score a freezing cold top?

Your correspondent is ashamed to admit that he was one of the three non-East players. Oh well. Nobody's perfect, although this auction was perfectly awful.

Quote for the Month, an old chestnut, but highly appropriate: "When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it." (Clarence Darrow)

Until next month ...