

Pomona-Covina Unit  
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, November 18, 11:00 a.m.

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

In the October Unit game, Bill Papa – Vic Sartor ran away with the event, posting a 72.5% score. Second were Michael Marcucci – Kiran Kumar, then Lulu Minter – Robert Gish and Amr Elghamry – Dan Botoaca.

Sadly, although this was to have been our annual two-session Championship event, not enough pairs wanted to stay and play the second session. Golly! So the second session was scrapped. Unless popular demand indicates otherwise, we will no doubt not be scheduling two-session events in the future. RIP.

In the October Individual, Yours Truly once again took the top spot. Close behind (but not close enough) were Sofi Kasubhai, Richard Patterson, Clint Lew, and Donald Logsdon. October marked the end of the annual Individual Championship Series. The winner is the player with the best overall percentage in six contests. The top five qualifiers for 2016-17:

Linda Tessier	0.609
Sofi Kasubhai	0.601
Tom Lill	0.579
Al Lax	0.575
Clint Lew	0.579

Congratulations, all, and keep up the good play.

The fight for the top score was another close one. Fredy and Lulu Minter's 72.7%-er again *just* edged out Vic Sartor and Bill Papa's 72.61% game. (Sound familiar?) Now that summer vacation is over, attendance is up and we have lots of winners: Clint Lew, Joe Unis, Hanan Mogharbel, Paul Chrisney, Linda Tessier, Claudia Cochran, Herb Stampfl, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Roger Boyar, Linda Stuart, Margie Hall, and Ann Raymond..

Not a single promotion to report this month. Well, as noted last time, attendance was down over the summer, and there hasn't been a nearby Regional lately (no doubt the results from the Costa Mesa Regional haven't shown up yet in the updates).

For our Hand of the Month, we have some make-of-it-what-you will hands. Nothing spectacular ... just a couple of examples of why this game can be so intriguing ... and so exasperating. First: You pick up, as dealer, the following so-so hand:

♠ Q9432 ♥ 10943 ♦ KQ ♣ K2.

After two passes, partner calls 1♠, pass, to you. Well, it kind of almost looks like a limit raise – but is it really? The tight diamond honors may not be pulling the weight, the hearts are pathetic, and who can say how much the ♣K is worth? (By the way, you aren't playing Bergen raises or anything else fancy – just plain old kitchen bridge.) So what will it be?

How about 2♦? It does pinpoint your side strength. True, partner might leave you there – but you know THIS partner pretty well, and deem a pass unlikely. So 2♦ it is. Partner rebids 3♣,

and that's that – 4♠ it is, making 5, a flat board. You went through all that soul searching for nothing!

How about this one? In fourth seat, you find yourself looking at:

♠ A10985 ♥ 5 ♦ 862 ♣ AKJ10.

The auction goes 1♠, pass, pass, over to you. Now what? Your side has the balance of power, no doubt (unless LHO has a junior two-bid over there) ... but what's your call? Double, and watch partner bid hearts? 2♣, on a four bagger? (Admittedly, it's a nice one.) 1NT, wide open in the red suits?

How about this principle: “When they want to play in your best suit ... LET THEM.” So you pass. Good defense puts the contract 1 down, with nothing on for your side. Partner is 2=6=2=3, so you have no fit anywhere (except for the 5-2 spade fit!) and as an added bonus for those adventurous souls who went 2♣, clubs are 6-0 (on your right, of course).

Quote for the Month: “Get it right, you're a star. Get it half right, you're a gas giant.”  
(Spider Robinson)

Until next month ...