

Pomona-Covina Unit News

November 2020

Individual: Saturday, Nov. 7, 9:30 a.m., Claremont

Nope! No Unit game this month. We actually did have enough people sign up for a game in October – barely – but, we didn't have a place to play.

What's *That*? Old Reliable (a.k.a. Yours Truly) wasn't willing to host? Unthinkable!

Well, think again. The dice rolled, the gods laughed, and the Senior apartment Barbara (my wife, for those of you not in the know) and I put in for some time ago became available. Too good an opportunity to pass up, and with Barbara's health issues (and with me not getting any younger, either), we just had to go for it. So we are (as I write this) transitioning from a 1-acre lot, 2050 ft² home, 3 car garage, 8' x 10' garden shed, to a 1300 ft² apartment. NO extra storage. We've been having *some* difficulty sorting out the 41+ years' worth of accumulated Shinola. Hardest of all (for me) was disassembling my Christmas Village. It started out as a simple 4' x 8' O-gauge train layout, with maybe 3 or 4 buildings and a scanty assortment of people and animals. 22 Christmases later, it had grown via 4 additions to roughly 7' x 12', on two levels, and even that was overcrowded with decorations. Not to mention all the electronics. A true labor of love. Every snip and cut I made during disassembly took a piece of my soul with it.

But never fear, bridge-wise – although I'm moving, I remain within Unit 551. Or perhaps you *should* fear???

We did hold an Individual in October. Rosalie Roberts took top honors with a nice 67.86% effort, nosing out Roger Boyar's 64.29%. Sofi Kasubhai took third with 60.71%.

It does look like the Individual will continue in 2021. We located some new hosts, and also found a place to store the equipment. (Losing all that storage space *really* hurts!) Further news in December – assuming I can get organized by then.

Stop the presses! We have a promotion to report this month! Read all about it! Barbara Andryjowicz is now a Club Master. Keep on plugging, Barbara, we're with you.

It was tough to come up with a good Hand-of-the-Month this time. Because of the commotion caused by my move, I played exactly ONE time in October, and the hands were so in the interest department. Let's dig into the archives and see what surfaces:

OK, here's a hand I played in a Regional way back in '06. We were in the consolation Swiss of a compact knockout event, and had blown it big time against this team on the first 6 boards. I personally floored a stone cold vulnerable game, and at the other table our teammates played 3♣ (making) while our opponents bid and made, on an insane auction, 6NT. So we were 23 IMPs out with six boards to go.

OK, teeth-gritting time. On the first board of the 2nd half, we set them 3 tricks in 3♦ for +150, which seemed promising. Then as East, I picked up this beast, as dealer (Vul vs Not):

♠ K Q J 10 9 x ♥ 2 ♦ --- ♣ A 10 8 x x x.

I hope everyone in the world would open that monster 1♠, which is what I did. (Well, I had about 48 masterpoints at the time, so if things seem a bit primitive / stupid ...) Here's how it went:

North	East	South	West
	1♠	2♠	pass
pass	3♣	3♥	4♣ (1)
pass	4♠	5♦	pass
pass	5♠	X	all pass

(1) East, to self: Ding-ding-ding-ding-ding !!!!!!!

The opening lead was the ♥A followed by the King, ruffed. Here's the complete deal (more or less – I didn't record the spots):

	♠ x x x x	
	♥ x x x	
	♦ x x x x	
	♣ x x	
♠ 4 3		♠ K Q J 10 9 x
♥ Q x x x		♥ 2
♦ Q J x		♦ none
♣ K J x x		♣ A 10 8 x x x
	♠ A	
	♥ A K J x x	
	♦ A K x x x x	
	♣ Q	

As you can see, as long as I pump spades out it's cold for +850. In the other room the auction was different (no kidding!) and our teammates played 6♦X, down 1 for -100. That was 13 IMPs in, and on the last 4 boards, one was a flat board at 5♠ making, and the other three, all part score hands, we had plus scores on all of them at both tables. We took the set 30-1, winning the match 33-27 to win the consolation. The motto: NEVER GIVE UP.

And yes, of course, North got *my* usual hand by mistake.

Quote for the month: "I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use." (Galileo)