

Pomona-Covina Unit News

November 2021

Individual: November 6, 10:00 a.m., Ontario
December 4, 10:00, Upland

STaC: November 9, 12 (La Fetra) (??)

Unit Game: Saturday November 20, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

Upgraded Club Championship: Tuesday, November 2; Friday, November 5; Tuesday, November 30

No Game: Friday, November 26 (La Fetra is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.)

Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

ARRGH! To explain the (??) in the STaC announcement: I registered for this event a couple of weeks ago. But just today (as I write this), I got a phone call from someone hoping to play in the event ... it has disappeared from the ACBL web site! There's been no announcement, so far as I am aware. Stay tuned – visit our web site for any updates that come in after this is published.

On the other hand – the team games we played last month seemed to be very popular. (Translation: a couple of people asked me when the next one is scheduled!) I had not planned anything definitely yet, but given that the STaC may or may not take place, possibly I will run team games that week. They will just be rag-bag club games, no gold points or anything special, but what the heck, why not? So plan on playing teams on the 9th and the 12th. Even if the STaC gets reinstated, we could still play teams.

Just one promotion to report again this month. Barbara K. Andryjowicz is now a Sectional Master. Congratulations, Barbara.

I wish ... I wish ... I wish that I could say when we will give out the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenny awards. But this year's Ace of Clubs certificates seem to have gone astray: our President never received them, and attempts to have them resent have not succeeded. Apparently most ACBL employees are still working from home, and they are unable to comply with our request. I'll try to keep you posted.

Winner of the October Individual was ... ahem ... once again, Yours Truly, but only a 62.5% game this time. That was enough to propel me to second place in the Annual Championship, for the umpteenth time. Sigh! Kiran Kumar placed second, Roger Boyar tied with Paul Chrisney and Clint Lew for third; and Kathy Malovos tied with Don Logsdon for second in flight C.

In the October Unit game, Fredy and Lulu Minter repeated as champs, but it was more competitive this month. They edged out Amr Elghamry - Dominique Moore AND and Eileen and Tim Finlay by 0.12 matchpoints. Susan Emminger - Rosalie Roberts Karen Olin - Karen McCarthy rounded out the winners' circle, 3rd in B.

Winning pairs at La Fetra in October were few – only three, in fact. This is partly due to the team games we played, and also due to the fact the a couple of pairs keep clobbering the rest of us. Not to mention that we haven't been able to run a Mitchell movement in approximately forever, it seems. Anyhoo, Fredy and Lulu Minter, Caryn Mason – Mary Ann Wotring, Vic

Sartor – Bill Papa were the three winning pairs. The top score in October was a 65.83% by Caryn and Mary Ann.

Winners of the Club Appreciation Team Games: on Tuesday, the team of Fredy and Lulu Minter, Kurt Trieselmann and Paul Chrisney won two of three matches to take the title. On Friday, the team of Vic Sartor, Mary Ann Wotring, Gail Leroy, and Steve Dorse swept all five matches to win in a runaway.

Those of you at the Riverside sectional last month – or those who planned to go – may have run into some excitement. With the team including Yours truly in the car on Sunday and all set to go ... we received notice that the event was cancelled. Oy! It seems that someone who played Friday (but not Saturday), although fully vaccinated, tested positive for COVID. So, safety first. Oh well. I didn't see many Unit 551 members there ... but the pair of Y.T. and Hanan Mogharbel, in a stunning upset, posted a 68% game in the afternoon open pairs to sweep the event. Which proves once again that luck *can* trump skill. Not that we played badly, mind you ... but due to the peculiarities of the movement, we did not play either the first or second place pair in the opposing direction. And something must have been in the air, because a lot of very fine players either put cold contracts on the floor against us, or found the second-best defense against us. We'll take it! It must have been galling to a pair with around 100,000 (really, no typo here!) masterpoints see a flight C pair beat them.

In social gossip, David Ochroch took most of the month off from bridge for the trivial reason that he was getting married. Best wishes to the newlyweds.

Last month I showed you a double-dummy problem. Did you figure it out? The contract is 4♠, and the opening lead is the ♥A. Here's the whole deal again:

| | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| | ♠ 8 7 | |
| | ♥ J 9 6 4 2 | |
| | ♦ A K 9 | |
| | ♣ A K 9 | |
| ♠ 5 2 | | ♠ Q 6 4 3 |
| ♥ A K 3 | | ♥ Q 10 8 7 5 |
| ♦ Q J 10 8 | | ♦ 4 2 |
| ♣ Q J 10 8 | | ♣ 4 2 |
| | ♠ A K J 10 9 | |
| | ♥ – | |
| | ♦ 7 6 5 3 | |
| | ♣ 7 6 5 3 | |

Believe it or not ... this is a straightforward dummy reversal! It's hard to spot right away with dummy having only the ♠87, but watch: you ruff the opening lead. You cross to dummy four times in the minors, and each time, you ruff a heart on the way back. That's nine tricks, and the ♠87 are now equals against the Queen for trick 10. Amazing! Of course, the hand cannot be made on anything but a heart lead, since you have no entry to dummy to ruff the fifth heart. You cannot even finesse the ♣9 (always assuming West does not split his honors), because East will ruff the third round.

OK, now for a *real* hand. It was submitted by Ho Ming Yim, who – we are sad to report – has recently moved out of our Unit. Ah, to be young, foot-loose, and fancy-free. Well, I’d settle for young ...

Anyway, here’s the deal. Alert: it features another of those semi-balanced hands I seem to be so fond of! Ho Ming sat South and was the dealer, with both sides vulnerable (see deal, next column).

The opening lead was the ♠A, and as you can see, declarer takes the rest. Says Ho Ming: “NS plays a strong club system. 1♣ is 16+HCP artificial forcing. 1♦ is 11-15HCP 4+♦. 1N is 12-15 HCP balanced. 2♣ is 11-15HCP, 5+♣. 2♦ is 11-15HCP 4414. I’m not sure passing the first round was my smartest decision, but my reasoning was I could always come in later (and I did).”

| | | | |
|----------------|--|---------------|--|
| ♠ Q 9 8 5 4 3 | | | |
| ♥ 6 | | | |
| ♦ K 6 | | | |
| ♣ K 9 7 3 | | | |
| ♠ K J 6 | | ♠ A 7 2 | |
| ♥ A K Q 10 9 7 | | ♥ J 8 5 4 3 2 | |
| ♦ Q 2 | | ♦ J 9 4 | |
| ♣ 8 6 | | ♣ 5 | |
| ♠ 10 | | | |
| ♥ – | | | |
| ♦ A 10 8 7 5 3 | | | |
| ♣ A Q J 10 4 2 | | | |

| South | West | North | East |
|----------|------|-------|------|
| pass | 1♥ | pass | 3♣ |
| pass | 4♥ | pass | pass |
| 4NT | pass | 5♣ | 5♥ |
| 6♣ | pass | pass | dbl |
| all pass | | | |

Yes, it seems to me (but remember, my invitation to the Cavendish tournament keeps getting lost in the mails or something) that most people would open this hand 1♦. Or perhaps 3NT, for those who play that shows 10 HCP and 5-5 minors. In either case, the auction will be very different. What I find most interesting is that it appears that the E-W 4♥ contract is doomed to just make on a spade lead, or drift one down on a non-spade lead. This despite their 12-card trump fit!

Quote for the month: “Caffeine makes it possible to wake up in the morning. But chocolate makes it worthwhile. (seen on a T-shirt)