

Pomona-Covina Unit News

November 2022

Individual: November 1, 5 a.m., Ontario
December 3, 10 a.m., Upland

STaC: November 1, and 4, La Fetra

Upgraded Club Championships: November 8, 11*, 15 and 18, La Fetra

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

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

There's an asterisk (*) appended to our Club Championship for November 11, because the Center will be closed that day in observance of Veteran's Day. So the plan is to hold the game at Tom's Place, where we often hold the monthly Individual game. PLEASE note that I can manage four tables easily, and five tables with some effort, but no more. So if you plan to play that day, it would be *very wise* to make a reservation with Tom (i.e. Yours Truly), because it will otherwise be first come, first served.

Early-Bird Advance Notice: La Fetra will be closed on Friday, December 23, and also on Friday, December 30, in observance of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. There will be no game held on either day.

In the October Individual, Clint Lew led the rest with 67.05%; Gary Atwell was next, at 60.23. Next were Linda Tessier, Yours Truly, Roger Boyar, Art Wallace, and Steve Mancini to round out the leader board.

Topping the charts this month we find Clint Lew – Linda Tessier with the only two 65%+ games, with 66.67% and 65.95%. Others atop the leader board were Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Fredy Minter and Roger Boyar.

We also are pleased (more so than usual – ahem!) to announce the Overall Individual Championship standings for 2021-22: Here goes:

Tom Lill	57.4%
Clint Lew	54.8%
Steve Andersen	53.7%
Peter Kavounas	53.3%
Roger Boyar	52.6%

These standings are computed by taking a weighted average of each player's best six games, percentage-wise, over the past year.

In the October Unit game, Amr Elghamry – Fredy Minter, with 63.54%, edged out Vic Sartor – Bill Papa by just ½ match point. Gary Atwell – Susan Emminger were third, followed by Tim and Eileen Finlay.

There were no rank advancements again this month.

Once again, no one beat a path to our door, panting to be on our Board of Directors, so the same cast has agreed to serve another term. *Sigh.*

Here's another amusing hand, this time from a regular club game. It was hand-dealt, so no electronic blame can be charged. As dealer, I picked up this monster:

♠ KJ987542 ♥ AKQ106 ♦ none ♣ none.

BTW, I calculate the odds of picking up an 8-5 hand at about 1 in 31,948, so that's *that* for a while. (If you played every day, 24 hands/day, you'd pick up a hand with this shape about once in 4 years.) Anyway, I decided to open it 1♠. From there it went pass, 1NT (forcing), 3♣. Bah. Wish I had opened 4♠! I chose 4♥ as my rebid, which became the final contract. The opening lead was the ♣Q, and I saw this dummy:

♠ Q ♥ 732 ♦ Q10972 ♣ K1092.

Now I *really* wish I had opened 4♠! I made five, as LHO elected to discard as I ran the spades instead of tapping me in a minor; with trumps 4-1, I think I get tapped out before I can run the spades. Elsewhere, the contracts were 4♥ down one, and 4♠ making. Yes, more difficult to tap out declarer when he has eight trumps! Again ... better lucky than good!

And these freak hands seem to run in streaks ... just one week later, I was on defense, holding this junk pile:

♠ 105 ♥ A42 ♦ 976432 ♣ 84.

Ho, hum, next deal please. No interest here, you say? Wait! The auction was

LHO	Partner	RHO	Moi
1♠	2♥	pass	pass
3♦	pass	3♠	pass
4♠	all pass.		

Partner led the ♥Q, and dummy flopped with

♠ Q2 ♥ K1065 ♦ 10 ♣ K107632.

Declarer played the ♥K from dummy, you know what I played, and declarer ruffed. Well, OK. Two rounds of trumps followed, all following, and then a small diamond was led from the closed hand towards the 10 ... and partner showed out! Wow. Declarer was 7-6! So now it's obvious, I will win trick 13 with the Curse of Scotland. Declarer's exact hand:

♠ AKJ9864 ♥ none ♦ AKQJ85 ♣ none.

What makes this even more amusing is that at one table, the holder of this semi-balanced hand shot the grand ... and just about fell off her chair when the diamonds proved to be as sour as could be. Bridge, *such an easy* game.

Oh, yeah – if you really care, the chances of picking up a 7-6 hand are *far* better than the chances of an 8-5 hand: about 1 in 17,970. Don't hold your breath!

Quote for the month: “The shortest distance between two points is usually under construction.” (from “Laughter to Get You Through the Day”)