

Pomona-Covina Unit News

November 2023

Individual: November 4, 10 a.m., Upland

December 2, 10 a.m., Upland

Unit Game: November 18, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

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

Club Championships: November 28, December 1

STaC: November 14, 17, 18 (Unit Game)

We have officially moved out of the Knights of Columbus. The parking here at ICH is better, even if it's only because you don't have to cross busy Route 66 to get to the playing area.

The October Individual was captured by Stephen Andersen, with 64.58%. In second we find Tom Cusack, followed by Yours Truly tying Kitty Moon for third, then Linda Tessier, and finally Rose Roberts tying Ar Weinstein for the final spot in the masterpoints.

The final standings for the 2023 Individual Championship have been computed. Of the 30 people who played at least once, 12 qualified for the championship by playing at least six games. The top five:

Linda Tessier	57.6%
Stephen Andersen	57.2%
Kiran Kumar	56.7%
Tom Lill	54.9%
Art Weinstein	54.2%

The overall percentages are arrived at by taking a weighted average of each player's best six games, percentagewise.

In the October Unit Game, Susie Emminger - Gary Atwell too top honors with a 68.34% effort. In second were Judy Mogharbel - Kiran Kumar, then Vic Sartor - Bill Papa. Also scoring were Fredy Minter - Amr Elghamry, then Karen McCarthy - Karen Olin, and Richard Parker - Steve Mancini (first in flight C).

We have only one promotion to announce this month. Peter Kavounas is now a Sectional Master

The "big game" list for October features only three pairs. A competitive month! The big score of 70.14% was turned in by Clint Lew – Linda Tessier. The other two big scores – and just barely, at that – were turned in by Fredy Minter – Roger Boyar (65.74%), and Roger Boyar – Steve Mancini (65.17%). Other winners: Peter Kavounas, Bill Papa, Mary Ann Wotring, Vic Sartor, and Lulu Minter.

For this month's horror show I present two deals I had the pleasure (?) of participating in. They were the first two of the session, so as you will see, it was going to be a long one. So to speak.

With North the dealer, all vulnerable, you find yourself staring at these cards:

♠ KJ ♥ KQ965 ♦ AKJ10 ♣ K4.

Well, a bit better than the usual dreck I pick up. For better or for worse, after two passes, I decided to open a slightly off-shape 2NT (20-21).

Before I give the auction and the entire deal, just how many tricks do you think you might bring home with this rather nice collection? Think, think, think ...

WRONG! You are going to make ONE trick! After my 2NT, LHO bid 3♠, which bought the contract. The entire deal was:

♠ 62	
♥ J103	
♦ Q954	
♣ 6532.	
♠ AQ943	♠ 10875
♥ A874	♥ 2
♦ 8	♦ 7632
♣ AJ10	♣ Q987
♠ KJ	
♥ KQ965	
♦ AKJ10	
♣ K4	

The opening lead is irrelevant, but I think it was the ♦4. Since declarer can ruff hearts to get to dummy, and the club finesse is on (big surprise there), 12 tricks roll home. I made the ♦K, nothing else.

No one got to the icy 6♠ slam, somehow. I mean, the E-W hands *do* contain a whopping 17 HCP. The results were, (E-W) +260 (don't ask me!), +230, +170, +100, and somehow, N-S got to play 2♥, +110 for them.

And then on to the next board. This time you have a more modest collection:

♠ KQJ109 ♥ 8 ♦ Q974 ♣ 864.

Partner opens 1NT, RHO passes, you bid 2♥ (showing ♠s), LHO doubles (what, he thinks you can't make 2♥?), and partner bids 2♠. You think a bit but you do only have 8 HCP and only five spades. The hearts could be troublesome in a notrump contract, especially after that double. The complete deal is a bit of a surprise:

♠ A8	
♥ A742	
♦ AJ653	
♣ A5	
♠ 642	♠ 753
♥ KQJ95	♥ 1063
♦ K10	♦ 82
♣ Q97	♣ KJ932
♠ KQJ109	
♥ 8	
♦ Q974	
♣ 864	

With trumps 3-3 and the diamond King onside, 12 tricks roll in again. How often do you see +230 at all, let alone on consecutive deals? +230 was a touch above average, as the other scores were +490 (no, really!), another +230, a +210, and a +200. 16 across from 8 sure, surely an OBVIOUS 3NT hand. Maybe that pair found the secondary diamond fit ... Or maybe North did not open 1NT. True, the North hand does have all four Aces, but oh, those intermediates!

Oy!

Quote for the month: "Being President is like being a jackass in a hailstorm. There's nothing to do but stand there and take it." (Lyndon Baines Johnson)