

Pomona-Covina Unit News

November 2024

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
Individual: December 7, 10 a.m., Ontario
Unit Game: November 16, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
NO UNIT GAME IN DECEMBER
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

In the October Individual, the winner was Linda Tessier, scoring 61.36%. Close behind in second was Art Weinstein, followed by Clint Lew and Stephen Andersen.

In the October Unit Game, Judy Mogharbel and Yours Truly swept all before them, posting 61.69%. Peter Kavounas – Mary Ann Wotring finished second, followed by Vic Sartor – Linda Tessier, Fredy Minter – Amr Elghamr, and Roger Boyar – Eileen Finlay.

Advance warning: because of the nightmare December schedule of tournaments, we won't be having a December Unit game. Instead we'll be have TWO Unit games in January. The first one, the "extra" game, will be on the 11th, and will be our attempt at a Christmas party. Yeah, I know, but whaddaya gonna do? On the 18th we'll hold our regular 3rd-Saturday Unit Game. And all this means there won't be an Individual game in January.

We welcome Peter Kavounas to our Board of Directors. Peter has agreed to serve as Treasurer, replacing Susie Emminger, who has dropped off the Board.

There weren't any rank advancements this past month. *Quelle dommage*:

Topping the charts in October was a truly *monstrous* 78.13% game posted by Fredy and Lulu Minter. (I guess the rest of us were playing some other game that day, maybe *Misere*?) Another whopper was posted by Patrick Finley and Caryn Mason, 71.76. The other two games breaking the magic 65% barrier just did make the cut: Yours Truly – Judy Mogharbel at 65.28%, and Gary Atwell – Steve Andersen, 65.19%.

Your Unit's representative to the District Board of Directors (take a wild guess as to who that is) attended the recent District Board Meeting. Some items of interest: there doesn't seem to be much interest in having our District merge with District 22 (from either party); the Long Beach Regional actually turned a small profit, \$2400; the North American Pairs district final went well, except for the tie for the final qualifying spot.

Here's a hand that came some time ago, which I'm just getting around to reporting. We'll title it "An Exercise in Frustration." Not that *that* ever happens at the bridge table! It will be more fun, I think, if you can see the entire hand at once. West deals, no one is vulnerable, and you hold the North cards.

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|---|--|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">North</p> <p>♠ A K J</p> <p>♥ K 2</p> <p>♦ A K 2</p> <p>♣ Q 8 6 4 2</p> | <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;">West</p> <p>♠ 8 7 3</p> <p>♥ A Q J 9</p> <p>♦ Q 9 6</p> <p>♣ A K 5</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: center;">East</p> <p>♠ Q 5 4</p> <p>♥ 10 8 7 6 5</p> <p>♦ 10 7 4</p> <p>♣ 10 3</p> </td> </tr> </table> | <p style="text-align: center;">West</p> <p>♠ 8 7 3</p> <p>♥ A Q J 9</p> <p>♦ Q 9 6</p> <p>♣ A K 5</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">East</p> <p>♠ Q 5 4</p> <p>♥ 10 8 7 6 5</p> <p>♦ 10 7 4</p> <p>♣ 10 3</p> |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">South</p> <p>♠ 10 9 6 2</p> <p>♥ 4 3</p> <p>♦ J 8 5 3</p> <p>♣ J 8 7</p> | | | |

Sitting North, you are all set to open 2NT ... when West opens 1NT. Arrgh! That leave 3-5 HCP for the other two players. If you bid 2NT, you are asking partner to bid a minor, probably not best (although you do have a 5-3 club fit, you would wind up in the 4-3 diamond fit). You could double, but South will take it out with that defenseless wonder, and how often do you expect to be in dummy to finesse against West? So you decide to pass. Of course, East calls 2♦, a transfer to hearts. That figures. South passes (really?), and West goes 3♥! I suppose a super-accept is OK with that hand, but although the trumps are certainly nice, the shape is terrible.

And you? You can probably beat 3♥ ...but suppose East has a singleton in one of your AK suits? Worse still, the way your luck is running, of those 3-5 missing HCP, suppose East turns up with the ♥A? Disaster? So you pass again.

When dummy comes down, ONE card you did NOT want to see is there to mock you – the ♠Q. (Well, the ♥A would have been worse!) As it turns out, 3♥ goes one down, you get your two AKs and the trump King. After the hand was over, West said he *really* meant to bid 2♥. Such is life at the bridge table.

So N-S get a lucky top score. Better lucky than good, as they say.

Quote for the month: “Problems worthy of attack prove their worth by hitting back.” (Piet Hein)