

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, October 25, 11:00 a.m. and TBD

Individual – Saturday, October 4, LaVerne Site

First up – that’s right, as you note in the header above, it’s October and time for our annual two-session championship event. You may play in either or both sessions, and join us for dinner – or not – at your option. (Of course, if you don’t play both sessions, you don’t qualify for the overall awards, just the single-session awards.) At press time, the Board of Directors still had not firmed up dinner plans, so check with one of us for details – they’ll be available by the time you read this.

Between sessions we will be holding our annual Membership Meeting, where You – the membership – elect the Board of Directors for the coming year. We are always looking for fresh ~~victims~~ talent for the Board, so if you are willing to serve (the work is not hard), speak up!

Our September Unit game takes place too far ahead of our press deadline, so look for the results next month.

The September Individual was won by Al Lax, followed by Sofi Kasubhai, Sanford Jones, Linda Tessier, and Patricia Radamaker – Roger Boyar tying for the fifth spot. This game also marked your Unit’s entry into the electronic scoring age. We have purchased a set of Bridge Mate electronic scorers (you know, the same ones used at the local tournaments) and will be using them at all Individual and Unit games. No more traveler foul-ups, hurrah! (Of course, you are no doubt familiar with the old saying, “To err is human, but to *really* foul things up requires a computer.”)

Lots of promotions this month: Marie-Rose Kardous, Dale Quasny, and Don Nakasaki are now Junior Masters; Sofi Kasubhai is a Club Master; Linda Stuart is a Regional Master, and Claudia Cochran is just a step away from that coveted gold card at NABC Master. Congratulations, all, and keep up the good work.

The top game this month was a 77.5% steamroller by Roger Boyar and Richard Patterson. Since this was a rather small game – suffice to say, it doesn’t qualify for listing in the Bridge Bulletin – we’ll give you the second best effort, 70.38% by Linda Tessier and Clint Lew. Other first place finishers were Margie Hall, Ann Raymond, Sandy Jones, Karen McCarthy, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Lulu Minter, Karen Olin, Rona Schneider, John Barrow, Mary Miller, Don Naf, Norma Appley, Larry Clark, and Tom Lill.

We continue last month’s theme for hand-of-the-month with another exhibit from the Chamber of Horrors, with a serving of Frustration for dessert.

First: with only your side vulnerable, you find yourself looking at ♠ AQxxx ♥ AKQT98x ♦ x ♣ none. Partner, the dealer, opens 1♦, you respond 1♥, partner rebids 2♣ (of course) and the ball is back on your side of the net. What now? You have various options, all flawed: 4♥, 3♠ (natural), 2♠ (fourth suit forcing), or perhaps something

cockamamie you and partner have worked out. For the sake of argument, let's say you try 2♠. The response will be 2NT, so partner must have the ♠K. And it's your turn again.

Ready with your answer? OK, here goes. Unless you said 4♥, you are destined for a minus score. Partner puts down ♠ Kx ♥none ♦KJxxxx ♣AJTxx. Twist and turn as you will, you are going to lose the ♦A, and hearts break 4-2 as expected, with the ♥J on the four side. So you cannot make 6♥. Spades don't break, either, so 6♠ is out.

Our bittersweet dessert offering is this monster: ♠ AKQxx ♥Ax ♦AKQx ♣Ax. Ho hum, just your average 26-count. Dealer, on your right, opens 2♥! Well, doubling seems to offer the most flexibility, so you do. LHO raises the ante to 3♥. Back to you.

Either 3NT or 4♠ seems indicated. The suit contract may work out better if an opponent has four spades, so 4♠ it is. Dummy flops with ♠ Txxx ♥x ♦Jxxxx ♣xxx, spades are not 4-0, and you have 13 stone cold tricks. If you are allowed to open 2♣, getting to at least the small slam should be easy; how do you get there with the interference? (To be fair, one genius ... or madman, take your pick) just blasted 6♠ at his first turn. Nothing succeeds like success, they say. Oh well, at least you beat out the notrump hogs, who weren't able to ruff the losing heart and so took only 12 tricks.

Quote for the month: "If Beethoven had been killed in a plane crash at the age of 22, it would have changed the history of music...and of aviation." (Tom Stoppard)

See you in Torrance. Until next month ...