

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.-ish

Individual – Saturday, October 1, 9:30 a.m., La Verne Site

That's right, our annual two-session championship game is upon us, so we will be starting the first session a bit earlier than usual, so that we can get home at a reasonable hour. (Or be on time for that Hot Date we have lined up – or whatever.) Once again, we will be going to the Olive Garden (in Glendora) between sessions for dinner. Play either session, or both, and join us for dinner (guests welcome), or not. One caveat: if you plan to join us at the Olive Garden, PLEASE sign up no later than Tuesday, October 18, so we can get your meal order placed. The bridge fee will be the \$7 for one session (either one), or \$12 for both sessions. Cost of dinner will be \$20.

The September Unit game was won by Richard Patterson – Roger Boyar, in a real squeaker. Tying for second were Walter Otto – Clinton Lew and Tim Finlay – Eileen Finlay. Yours Truly – David Ochroch placed fourth, and Linda Tessier – Paul Chrisney rounded out the top five (and were first in C).

In the September Individual, Albert Lax took the top honors with a nice 69% game, topping Richard Patterson and Clint Lew (tied for second) by more than two boards. Darlene Sessions took third, and Yours Truly snuck into fifth place.

The October Individual will be a club appreciation game (no extra cost!) paying better master points. It's also the final game in the annual Championship Series ... so if you think you have a chance to get your name on the plaque, give it a go. Who are the present leaders? Not tellin' !!!

The top game this past month was a another scorcher – 75% by Roger Boyar. No partner, it was an Individual movement. In regular pairs games, the top score was 70.7% by Fredy and Lulu Minter. Other winners: Richard Patterson, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Clint Lew, Sandy Jones, Penny Barbieri, Walt Otto, Hanan Mogharbel, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, John Barrow, Mary Miller, Linda Stuart, Linda Tessier, Susie Emminger, and Yours Truly.

In Board of Director news, it has been suggested that we join up with the Downey-Whitter Unit about holding a joint sectional. (No, so far as we know, marijuana won't be one of the giveaways at the tournament...) Neither Unit has held one for quite a number of years. At September's Board meeting, your Tournament Chairman (guess who?) was given the go-ahead to see what can be worked up. Looking at the tournament calendar, June or August of 2017 look like the most likely times. (Note – it takes a year, more or less, to organize a tournament, even a measly old Sectional.) YOUR input will be appreciated!

Only one “official” (meaning it showed up in the monthly member report) promotion this month: Paul Chrisney is a Regional Master. However, we have one major milestone to report: Claudia Cochran, playing in the Irvine Regional last month, got that last snippet of gold to qualify for Life Master. Way to go, Claudia. Claudia got that last bit of gold playing with Hanan Mogharbel, so Hanan is one step closer, too.

For this month's Hand-of-the-Month, we present "Better Lucky than Good." What do you bid if you hold the following hand :

♠ AQxx ♥ Q87xx ♦ AKQ9 ♣ void

and you hear your vulnerable partner overcall LHO's 1♣ opening with 1♥? Whether you fooled around with club cue bids or a splinter bid, used Exclusion Blackwood, or just blasted to 6♥, you should be ashamed not to force to slam. Probing for seven hearts is entirely reasonable. Most pairs didn't bid slam, however. A couple didn't even get to game. It seems that nobody else found the brilliant heart overcall with this rock crusher:

♠ J8x ♥ KJxxx ♦ x ♣ Jxxx

Go figure.

Quote for the Month: "You can observe a lot just by watching." (Yogi Berra)

Until next month ...