

Pomona-Covina Unit  
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, October 21, 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.-ish

Individual – Saturday, October 7, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

In the September Unit game, Dan Botoaca – Amr Elghamry again took overall honors, but this month we held them down to “only” 67%. Bill Papa – Vic Sartor were second, Lulu and Fredy Minter were third, Penny Barbieri – Yours Truly were fourth (and first in B). Timothy and Eileen Finlay took first in C (second in B).

In the September Individual, Yours Truly took the top spot (after a very long absence therefrom, we might add). Looking upward were, in order, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, and Penny Barbieri. Next month’s Individual is the finale of the annual championship series, and is also a Club Appreciation game. (It pays extra masterpoints, but not too many, because of the disrespect paid to Individual game.)

The fight for the top score was a close one this month. Fredy and Lulu Minter’s 72.9%-er just edged out Vic Sartor and Bill Papa’s 72.6% game. The doldrums of August kept the game sizes down this past month, but we do have some other winners: Gino Barbieri, Hanan Mogharbel, Penny Barbieri, Richard Patterson, Kurt Trieselmann, and Ken Bloomfield.

We have four promotions to report this month: Josephine Danels has become a Club Master; Kai Liu is a Regional Master; and Amr Elghamry is now a Sapphire Life Master (and perhaps is now cheered on by the Kingfish? Holy Mackerel!) Eileen Finlay earned that coveted Gold Card and is now a Life Master. Congratulations to you all.

Final reminder – our annual two-session Championship Game, and Unit Board elections, are both scheduled for Saturday, October 21. Between sessions, we will be going to lunch (dinner?) at Sergio’s in Glendora, and will be holding our annual membership meeting there. Please, please let us know if you will be attending lunch, and if you plan to play the second session.

For our Hand of the Month, we return, after a long absence, to the Laurel and Hardy School of Bridge. As dealer, no one vulnerable, playing 2/1, you pick up this rather nice hand:

♠ K7 ♥ A ♦ A52 ♣ AKQT652.

You could open 2♣, but when your suit is a minor, that can lead to trouble. It’s likely that someone is going to have an overcall of some sort, if partner can’t respond, so you open 1♣. The opponents are mercifully silent (for a change). Partner responds 1NT. *Just* what you wanted to hear. Normally, partner will be 3=3=3=4 to make that call, so 6♣ certainly is a likely resting place. However, partner would need perfect cards: ♠A and either red king, and how do you find out? If you invoke the ole’ Black, you might wind up in 6♣ willy-nilly. You could invent a phony reverse into 2♦, but is that going to help? You would expect to hear a correction to 3♣ anyway, telling you nothing new. So 3NT it is.

Partner now calls 4♥! Among the other three players, you included, this provokes the biggest case of eye-bulge ever recorded outside of a strip-joint. What do you do now? (Just as a

side note: you have no UI from partner's body language. Not that you would take advantage of it, of course .... )

Pass, of course. When two calls are inconsistent with each other, there's no telling what's going on, but you might as well trust partner. You may lose the board but you'll at least win the post-mortem.

Making 6. Partner, evidently suffering a major brain cramp, figured he could bid his hearts after your response to the forcing 1NT. Too bad the opening bid wasn't 1♠, of course. Partner's hand:

♠ JT2 ♥ KQ8763 ♦ QJ6 ♣ 8.

Just for the record, partner made 6 when, after the opening lead of a small spade, your LHO ducked the ♠A. Evidently he was still in shock from the auction. At other tables, 3NT made 4, as did 3♣ (don't ask me).

Since we celebrate Halloween this month, here's an exhibit from our Chamber of Horrors. In fourth seat, no one vulnerable, you are looking at

♠ QJT98 ♥ xx ♦ Jxx ♣ xx.

Bleah. Too bad you're not playing poker. LHO opens 1♦, partner overcalls 1NT (15-18), and RHO puts the 2♣ card on the table. Systems are on ... do you transfer to 2♠?

Seems quite reasonable, doesn't it? Too bad. 2♠ buys the contract. The opening lead is a small diamond. LHO wins the ♦A, cashes the ♣A, and the opponents take the next 6 tricks on a club-diamond cross ruff. (That's the only time trumps divided evenly all day, of course.) Down 2 before you even get started, whereupon dummy is high except for declarer's blocking ♠A. Some days, it just doesn't pay to get out of bed.

Quote for the Month: "A woman's dress should be like a barbed-wire fence: serving its purpose without obstructing the view." (Sophia Loren)

Until next month ...