

# Pomona-Covina Unit News

October 2018

Unit Game: Saturday, October 20, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, October 6, 9:30 a.m., Chino

Hot off the presses: “The California Club,” by Vic Sartor! Discover the ins and outs of his strong club bidding system. You can get it from Amazon, and no doubt from other places. Even if you don’t want to play this system ... you can learn how to defend against it.

The top finisher in the September Individual was Steve Mancini, at 60.4%. In second was Penny Barbieri;, Clint Lew tied with Roger Boyar for third; and Gino Barbieri took the fifth spot.

The September Unit game was won by Fredy and Lulu Minter, 67.08%. Tying for second: Clinton Lew – Linda Tessier, and Roger Boyar – Richard Patterson. Rounding out the top honors list were Joe Viola – Amr Elghamry.

The competition this month was fierce ... only two pairs topped the 65% mark this month. One pair was that bridge machine, Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, at 68.97%. The other good score was Richard Patterson – Hanan Mogharbel, 66.5%. Oh, well, the rest of us did our best! Other winners: Clint Lew, Sofi Kasubhai, Claudia Cochran, Linda Tessier, Herb Stampfl, Joe Unis, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Roger Boyar, and Linda Stuart.

La Fetra (and also Bridge41) will be celebrating “Club Appreciation Month.” La Fetra will hold 3 pairs games, and 3 team games (one each per sanctioned session) during the month. These games pay extra master points, at no additional cost. In addition, the team games pay 5% gold points, up to 0.25. (Yeah, yeah, big deal, you say. I know someone who, when chasing Life Master status, wound up with 24.99 gold points. What are the odds?) I’d like to tell you when these games might be ... but because team games require an even number of pairs ... we’ll hold them *ad hoc*, and work the pairs games around them. If you’d like to form your own team, fine! Otherwise we’ll just match up pairs as fairly as possible, assigning handicaps as appropriate. (The pairs games will be scratch, as usual – no handicaps.)

Our Unit had some modest successes in the Costa Mesa Regional. Top point-earner was Amr Elghamry (13.22), with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place Swiss finish. Kai Lui (10.66) had a first place Swiss finish, David Ochroch (10.27) had a 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup> in Swiss, Harish Singh (9.42) had a 2<sup>nd</sup> place Swiss finish; and Yours Truly (7.13) also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in a Swiss. Gail Leroy (2.10), Steve Dorse (2.10), Wendy Wanderman (2.08), and Bridgett O’Sullivan (2.08) brought home some gold from Gold Rush pairs. Congratulations, all!

Top masterpoint earners this month: Clint Lew, 9.25; Roger Boyar, 8.35; Linda Tessier, 5.51; Richard Patterson, 5.17; and Paul Chrisney, 3.33.

Four promotions this month: Gail LeRoy is now a Junior Master; Vinay Gupta is a Club Master; and Stephen Dorse and Douglas Hess are Sectional Masters. Congratulations, and keep up the good play, ladies and gentlemen.

For our Hand-of-the-Month, we present a bit of fun. In a tight Swiss match, on deal 5 of 6, no one vulnerable, you pick up this normal-looking hand:

♠ J   ♥ AKQ953   ♦ J987   ♣ 104.

All set to open 2♥ (maybe 1♥, if that’s your style), you see RHO open 1♥! You pass, maintaining your best poker face. LHO calls 1NT, Announced as “semi-forcing.” Now partner calls 2♥! Over to you.

Partner obviously has spades, and most likely clubs, for his Michaels cue bid. Sure, he *could* have diamonds. Want to bet? Still waiting for you. Yuck. You can play 2♠ in a probable 5-1 fit, or 3♣

in a probable 5-2 fit. (And remember, to do better when one level higher, you have to make TWO more tricks.) Ready?

How about ... pass! Sure, why not? Seems obvious, once you think about it. Your hearts are bound to be better than either of partner's suits, and at least the missing trumps are under yours, not over them. What if partner is void? Better still! If partner is void, playing in either black suit you never, ever get to your hand, unless the opponents are kind enough to do it for you. So, you put that green card on the table.

Result? Partner wins the opening diamond lead, takes six trump tricks (it turns out he had ♥10x – your lucky day!), and a black suit trick in the wash. +110. At the other table ... no doubt after a similar start to the auction ... they played 2♠, down 2. +100 more to your side, 5 IMPS in.

Yes, you won the match by a decent margin, in no small part due to those 5 IMPS. That's the second-best part. The best part? The look on partner's face when you put that pass card on the table! Priceless!

Quote for the month: "People don't believe facts, they believe what they want to believe, until the facts finally lose patience and club them with some catastrophe." (Poul Anderson)