

Pomona-Covina Unit News

October 2019

Unit Game: Saturday October 12,
11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, October 5, 9:30 a.m., San Dimas

We begin this month with some sad news. Richard Patterson, who co-ran the La Fetra club since its inception more than a decade ago, passed away on the morning of September 14.

I'm sorry to say that I didn't know Richard well outside of bridge. I do know he was always ready to pitch in and help out, had no trouble partnering an up-and-coming player, and had a ready, hearty laugh. My favorite bridge memory of Richard occurred on a night when we had a half table. Richard decided to kibitz my table, having already played that board set. I picked up a hand something like ♠Axxx ♥Kxxxx ♦x ♣Axx. Well, I wanted to open that hand in the worst way, but decided that opening 1♥ would, indeed, be the worst way. I could just see partner responding 2♦, or even worse, 1NT. So, I very casually took one of the small clubs, plopped it in with the spades, and opened 1♠! Richard nearly fell off his chair, laughing. True, this is not proper kibitzer decorum... To add the final touch ... LHO overcalled 2♥!

Yes, the Unit game is one week earlier than usual this month. And, since interest in our traditional two-session Championship event has been seriously lacking, we aren't scheduling it this year. One session only.

The top finisher in the September Individual was Roger Boyar, who posted a rather impressive 73.86% game. Clint Lew was a distant second with a still-impressive 65.91% effort. Ho Ming Yim tied with Don Logsdon for third, and Your Correspondent snuck into the overalls at fifth place.

The September Unit game was captured by Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, who posted a 66.25% game. Ho Ming Yim – Phil Savage were second, Fredy and Lulu Minter took third, Penny and Gino Barbieri were fourth.

As I mentioned last month, October is Club Appreciation month. I'm kind of re-thinking the team game idea – that pittance of gold isn't really worth it – but on October 8th, 10th, and 11th, La Fetra will hold Club Appreciation pairs games. That means you win extra master points, for no additional entry fee.

A dozen Unit members brought home some points from the Costa Mesa Regional – 98.92, to be exact. Best-in-show was Randy Howard, with 24.74. Next we find Ho Ming Yim, 17.81; David Ochroch, 14.11; Your Correspondent, 11.14, and Amr Elghamry, 8.29. The remaining point-earners: Harish Singh, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Hanan Mogharbel, Sofi Kasubhai, Dale Quasny, and Bill Papa.

The best performance at Costa Mesa was by Ho Minh Yim, whose team won the top bracket of the Sunday bracketed “B” Swiss. Ugliest performance: a team including Your Correspondent was hanging around all day, bouncing between second and third. Most of the matches all day were close all around, so a good win in that last match would see us home. Alas, we lost by 6 IMPs, which is 7-13 in victory points. As we sat licking our wounds, we found ...

that the two teams ahead of us had been soundly thrashed ... and we backed in to the win, by 3 VPs. Better lucky than good!

Things heated up a bit in September in the club games. There were quite a few pairs, and four individuals, hitting the magic 65% mark. Top score at pairs was Al Lax – Norma Appley, at 71.35%. Not bad. Right behind them (no, not in the same event!) we find Fredy and Lulu Minter, 70.5%. Going down the line, we have Roger Boyar – Steve Mancini, 67.0%; The Minters again, 67.0%; Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, 65.48% and 65.0%.

We have a few more winners: Kurt Trieselmann, Paul Chrisney, Ed Lechner, and Roy Wilson.

In Individual games, Roger Boyar had an impressive 74.86% game, Claudia Cochran had an impressive 71.43%-er, and Clint Lew had 67.83% and 65.91% - but finished *second* with that latter score.

36 players won a total of 81.34 masterpoints in club games within the Unit. The top 5 masterpoint earners in September were Roger Boyar (8.30), Fredy and Lulu Minter (8.06), and Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, (5.86).

In the promotion department, we find David Dai reaching the level of Junior Master. Congratulations, David, and keep on plugging.

Our hand of the month this time is just pure fun once again, although perhaps a *bit* more instructive than last month's. Sitting South, no one vulnerable, second in hand you pick up a hand that looks like a Communist Party convention:

♠ none ♥ AJ1098743 ♦ AKJ52 ♣ none.

(Come on, if I have to explain it, it's not funny, is it? "All Red.") Anyway, yes, it's an 8-5 freak. A 3-loser hand. Ordinarily that would qualify for a 2♣ opening, no? Well, you're a bit short in the high card department. You also have to consider that someone out there has a lot of black cards, and you will not welcome competition in spades. So what's your opening bid? 1♥? 4♥?? 2♣??? 6♥???? Or something else?

OK, here goes. The winning call is 1♥. The opponents remain silent, because partner has, of course, a big black-suited hand. He bids 1♠. If you now jump to 3♦, you will reach 6♦. Partner faces this dummy:

♠ KQJ2 ♥ none ♦ Q743 ♣ AQJ84.

6♦ is cold unless hearts are 5-0. It turns out that hearts are in fact 4-1 with the ♥Q singleton, so 6♥ makes, but it's against the odds. Diamonds are 2-2.

Three tables played 6♦, +920. The other two tables played 4♥ +480.

Quote for the month: "University President: 'Why is it that you physicists always require so much expensive equipment? The Department of Mathematics requires nothing but money for paper, pencils, and erasers...and the Department of Philosophy is better still. It doesn't even ask for erasers.'" (Isaac Asimov)