

Pomona-Covina Unit News

October 2021

Individual: October 2, 10:00 a.m., Ontario
November 6, 10:00, place TBD

Unit Game: Saturday October 16, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

We've concluded the series of "Welcome Back" Club Championship games at La Fetra ...except we really have not! "Alert!" "Please explain."

Along with the eight weeks of regular Club Championships, the ACBL authorized two weeks of "Upgraded Club Championship games." These pay even better masterpoints than the regular club championships.

Finally, October has always (well, recently-always anyway) been Club Appreciation month, where clubs could offer one Club Appreciation game (paying better masterpoints). This year, as part of the Welcome-Back effort, the ACBL is allowing F2F clubs to hold pair or team games awarding upgraded masterpoint awards during any two weeks in October as part of Club Appreciation Month.

So there will be masterpoints galore for most of the rest of this year. Now, a Club Appreciation Team Game actually pays some gold points to the participants. Well, "points" is an exaggeration. The most gold you can win is 0.25. Better than a slap in the face, I suppose.

So if there is enough interest, (and at the moment, it appear that there is), we'll hold team games during one of the two October Club Appreciation weeks. I'll be taking a poll at F2F games, but you can vote my sending me an email, also. For team games (assuming we hold them), you can form your own team, or come as a pair and get random teammates. Advance signups will be required, however, since we would need to have an exact multiple of four people at these games.

Und zo, here's a *tentative* schedule for these upgraded games. Subject to change without notice, so ... you can always ask! Or better still, show up and play.

Club Appreciation Pairs

Tuesday, October 5,

Friday, October 8

Club Appreciation Teams (5% gold points)

Tuesday, October 19

Friday, October 22

Upgraded Club Championships

Tuesday, November 2

Friday, November 5

Tuesday, November 30

Friday, December 3

The schedule is a bit confused because of a couple of STaCs in November and December, and the Palm Springs Regional in December.

You might have noticed that we have a new playing site for our monthly Individual. That's right! My complex is allowing me to reserve the rec room in my building for such use. Masks are not required, but you should wear one if not fully vaccinated. And there's plenty of visitor parking. That's the good news. The bad news? I'm living even further from the center of things than before. Only a mile, though. My apartment complex is near the corner of Francis and Mountain in Ontario. Directions and a map can be found on our Unit web site. Don't trust your GPS. It will try to bring you in the back way (from Magnolia), which is the hard way. Reservations to the game are necessary, as I can only accommodate four tables. It's a small room.

Just one promotion to report this month. Caryn Mason is now a Club Master. Congratulations, Caryn.

Winner of the September Individual was Yours Truly, with a fairly impressive (ahem!) 68.2% game. Peter Kavounas placed second, Roger Boyar third, and Kathy Malovos fourth.

In the September Unit game, Fredy and Lulu Minter had a fairly good (!) game at 74.5%. Not often you score 70.3% and finish second, but that's what happened to Bill Papa and Vic Sartor. Ho Ming Yim - Mary Ann Wotring were third (first in B), with Yours Truly - Hanan Mogharbel fourth, Clint Lew - Linda Tessier fifth, and Kurt Trieselmann - Paul Chrisney were first in flight C to round out the winners.

Speaking of the Individual - because input to the SCBN often comes in very late, some issues are published just too late to announce the Individual. So, I'll try to announce it for the following month, also.

And also speaking of the Individual, we compute an "Annual Champion" based on the best 6 (of 11, usually) performances over the past year. Of course, due to the pandemic, we didn't hold a lot of games in 2020 (or the first half of 2021, for that matter). But we can crown a champion for the 2019-2021 season. The top five qualifiers:

Clint Lew	60.3%
Tom Lill	59.2%
Roger Boyar	59.0%
Linda Tessier	53.23%
Stephen Andersen	53.17%

The winner gets his/her name inscribed on the "perpetual plaque," which one of these days I will get around to updating.

Winning pairs at La Fetra in September were Clint Lew - Linda Tessier, Hanan Mogharbel - Yours Truly, Roger Boyar - Steve Mancini, Fredy and Lulu Minter, Caryn Mason - Mary Ann Wotring, and Richard Parker - Caryn Mason. The top score in September was a nice 70% game by the Minters.

I've run across a fair number of interesting hands over the past month; unfortunately I didn't manage to record any of them. So for our Hand-of-the-Month, let's try something a little different. Here's a double-dummy problem for you. You are South, the contract is 4♠, and receive the opening lead of the ♥A.

	♠ 8 7	
	♥ J 9 6 4 2	
	♦ A K 9	
	♣ A K 9	
♠ 5 2		♠ Q 6 4 3
♥ A K 3		♥ Q 10 8 7 5
♦ Q J 10 8		♦ 4 2
♣ Q J 10 8		♣ 4 2
	♠ A K J 10 9	
	♥ –	
	♦ 7 6 5 3	
	♣ 7 6 5 3	

If you duck the opening lead, West switches to the ♦Q. If you duck *that*, he switches to the ♣Q. And if you duck *that*, he reverts back to the ♥K.

The contract is makeable. I'll give you the answer next month.

Quote for the month: "You know how dumb the average guy is? Well, by definition, half of them are even dumber than THAT." [J.R. "Bob" Dobbs]