

Pomona-Covina Unit News

October 2024

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45

Individual: November 2, 10 a.m., Upland

Club Championships: October 15, 18

November 12, 15

Club Appreciation Games: October 8, 11, 22, 25

Unit Game: October 19, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

November 16, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

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

In the September Individual, there wasn't any winner ... because not enough players showed up to hold a game. Sad. I guess everyone was at the Riverside, or perhaps the Beverly Hills, Sectional that day. Ah, well.

In a closely contested September Unit Game, Peter Kavounas – Patrick Finley captured the top spot with 59.52%. Gary Atwell – Stephen Andersen took second. Next we find Steve Mancini – Helen Wang. And that's IT, because we had only four tables. It's hardly worth holding a game, with that level of participation. In fact, this calendar year, we've reached at least six tables – the break-even point, financially – only once. And we're by *far* the cheapest Unit game around – still a major bargain, at \$7, including snacks and hand records. Cheaper than most Club-level games! Spread the word, friends!

We also have elections coming up for our Board of Directors. However, we couldn't even prepare for this in September, since we couldn't raise a quorum to hold our monthly meeting. Anyone out there interested in helping to keep the Unit alive? It's not a tremendous amount of work, being a Board member. Please consider joining us!

Also at our next Board meeting, we'll be deciding what to do for our Christmas party – assuming we have one. The past two years, we've had a five-table game, not *too* bad, considering. If we can hope for that many, it's worth doing. (Of course, anything worth doing, is worth overdoing!) Why not drop in and let your voice be heard.

There were two rank advancements this month: Dan Robinson is now a Sectional Master, and Art Weinstein is a Regional Master. Congratulations to both of you.

Quite a few people broke the magic 65% mark last month. In fact *most* of the winners did that! In order, we have Caryn Mason – Patrick Finley with an astounding 73.96%; Ramona Hernandez – Nona Stokes, 69.12%; Caryn and Patrick again, 69.00%; Fredy Minter – Roger Boyar, 67.71%; Steve Andersen – Gary Atwell, 66.15%; Caryn and Patrick *again*, 65.28%. That last effort was only good for second place that session, go figure! Other winners last month: Bill Papa, Peter Kavounas, Tim and Eileen Finlay, Vaughn Inman, and Yours Truly.

Here's a hand that came up last month that will frustrate you to no end. Well, it did *me*. You are North, both sides are red, and you find yourself looking at this semi-balanced collection:

♠ 108762 ♥ none ♦ AKJ982 ♣ 97.

Your partner deal, and passes. Your LHO opens 1♥ (big surprise!). And you do ... what?

We did not have a method to show this type of hand, short of a 1♠ overcall followed by a diamond bid. And I don't like overcalling a suit that I don't really want partner to lead, especially from something like Kx(xx). But I have fair playing strength. I chose to overcall 3♦, and that became the final contract. The opening lead was the ♠9, and I caught this dummy:

♠ AQ543 ♥ K73 ♦ 1053 ♣ J5.

Well, it seems to be good news/bad news. We have a 10-card spade fit! And the opponents have a 10 card heart fit. (Not to mention a 9 card club fit, but I wouldn't *think* of mentioning *that*.)

Looks like a piece of cake, right? It quickly turned into upside-down cake. I played the ♠A, figuring the lead was a singleton and didn't want to give East a ruff. Surprise! West ruffed the ♠A, led a small club to East's ace, who cashed the ♠K, gave West another ruff, and then West's ♣K completed my ruin. One down, -100. Mumble mumble mumble.

When the final results were in, it turned out to be a top board for us! No idea what the other auctions were, but the final contracts were:

4♥ W, +1	-650
5♥ E, =	-650
5♥X E, =	-850
3♦ N, -1	-100

The full deal:

<u>North</u>	
♠ 10 8 7 6 2	
♥ none	
♦ A K J 9 8 2	
♣ 9 7	
<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
♠ none	♠ K J 9
♥ Q 10 5 4 2	♥ A J 9 8 6
♦ Q 7 4	♦ 6
♣ K 10 8 3 2	♣ A Q 6 4
<u>South</u>	
♠ A Q 5 4 3	
♥ K 7 3	
♦ 10 5 3	
♣ J 5	

Strange that West did not compete in hearts, with a known 10-card fit. East has a little extra, but if West is broke, he could get badly hurt. Although a balancing double seems indicated. And how East found the lead of the ♠9 from ♠KJ9, I do not know. Especially after partner had opened 1♥! I guess it was a logical lead, but ... sheeesh!

Quote for the month: “Comedians and politicians each tell the audience what it wants to hear. The difference is that the audience laughs at the comedian and the politician laughs at the audience.” (Alexis A. Gilliland)