

Pomona-Covina Unit by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, September 20, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, September 6, LaVerne Site

Our August Unit game was a real squeaker. Rosalie Roberts – Penny Barbieri took first place by less than one match point over Eileen and Timothy Finlay. Margie Hall – Ann Raymond took third, Roger Boyar – Richard Patterson were fourth, and Clint Lew – Walt Otto rounded out the top five.

The July Individual was also a real closely contested affair. The spread between first and fifth places was less than one top board. Jed Cartageha and Rona Schneider tied for first, with Tom Lill, Sofi Kasubhai and Barbara Killebrew rounding out the leader board.

In the promotion department, apparently the results of the summer NABC didn't make the cut, because the "only" promotion this time around is a significant one: Sherman Gao has fulfilled the requirements for Life Master. Congratulations, Sherman, and keep up the good work.

The top game this month was a 68.5% effort by Bill Papa and Vic Sartor, narrowly edging out Fredy and Lulu Minter's 68.0%. Other first place finishers were Genise Hasan, Sandy Jones, Roger Boyar, Walt Otto, Richard Patterson, Rona Schneider, John Barrow, Mary Miller, Hanan Mogharbel, Hans Henke, Sofi Kasubhai, Clint Lew, Evelyn Hubacker, Ken Bloomfield, Kurt Triselmann, Linda Tessier, and Ron Porter.

In tournament play 19 unit members won a total of 48.53 master points at the John Waken sectional. Topping that list were Kiran and Anand Kumar with 7.35. Jack Chao and Sherman Gao each with 7.02, and Vic Sartor with 3.93, round out the top five. At the Glendale-Verdugo sectional the following week, 13 players won a total of 18.71 master points. Susie Emminger topped the list at 3.69, followed by Tim and Eileen Finlay with 2.96.

It's still two months until Halloween, but our hands-of-the-month this time come straight from the Chamber of Horrors. First up: you've been picking up your usual bilge in the current session – those 2NT openers always seem to be held by the opponents – but this time, you have really outdone yourself: ♠ 752 ♥ 7432 ♦ 62 ♣ 9643. In case you are curious (and also lazy), the spots add up to 60. Too bad the game isn't Nullo, you'd have a real rock crusher. (If the hand were inverted, making deuces into aces, and so on, you'd be looking at 23 HCP. To add insult to injury ... during your sit out, a player in your seat actually *did* pick up 23 HCP!)

Our second exhibit from the C of H doesn't look too bad at first glance: ♠ AK543 ♥ Q72 ♦ Q9432 ♣ none. Things go sour in a hurry, of course. LHO opens 1♥, partner overcalls with 2♣, next hand passes, and you call (with some misgivings) 2♠. Of course, partner comes again with 3♣, RHO passes, and it's up to you. What now?

Don't torture yourself: no matter what you do, it will be wrong. Partner has ♠ J ♥ J84 ♦ J87 ♣ AK8543. Your best spot is probably 3♦, but unless you have some very unusual agreements, you're not going to stop there. Yes, there was apparently some frisky bidding on both sides. 3♣ goes down 3 (for -300 and not a lot of match points).

Quote for the month: "Bridge is a great comfort in your old age. It also helps you get there faster." (Alfred Sheinwold)

Until next month ...