

Pomona-Covina Unit
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, September 16, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, September 2, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

In the August Unit game, Dan Botoaca - Amr Elghamry took overall honors with a blistering 72% game. Lulu and Fredy Minter were second, Margie Hall - Linda Ananea third, Kiran Kumar - Avice Osmundson fourth, and Penny Barbieri - Rosalie Roberts fifth.

In the August Individual, Sofi Kasubhai took first, followed by Clint Lew, Penny Barbieri, Gino Barbieri, and Al Lax.

Yet again, there were two scores over 70% this month. Amr Elghamry and Lulu Minter's 70.5%-er just edged out Vic Sartor and Bill Papa's 70.36%- game. Other winners: Genise Hasan, Hanan Mogharbel, Joe Unis, Roger Boyar, Fredy Minter, Penny Barbieri, Richard Patterson, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Linda Stuart, Chuck Lohr, David Ochroch, Herb Stampfl, and Yours Truly..

Only one promotion to report this month: Dede Moga has reached the first step on the ladder up, becoming a Club Master. Keep up the good work, Dede.

Another reminder - coming next month is our annual two-session Championship Game, and Unit Board elections, both scheduled for Saturday, October 21. Plan for another reminder next month.

For our Hand of the Month, we have this Exercise in Frustration. You are playing DONT against the opponents' 1NT opening, in both the direct and balancing seats. LHO deals and opens 1NT (15-17), partner bids 2♣ (showing clubs and another suit, at least 5-4 shape), third hand passes, and you find yourself staring at this collection:

♠ AK7 ♥ AQT92 ♦ 43 ♣ AK4

Yeow! You have a 2NT opener yourself. There are at most 5 HCP outstanding, and you gotta figure partner has them all, right? Well, what to do? Your choices are pass – which surely would earn you a white feather; 2♦ asking for partner's second suit – risking a pass if diamonds IS the other suit; or 3NT. There's a good chance that diamonds is partner's suit, and if so, 9 tricks should be a lock. So 3NT it is.

Sorry, Charlie. Partner took a rosy view of this hand (not vulnerable)

♠ QT952 ♥ 84 ♦ T6 ♣ J872

and the opponents rattle off the first 5 tricks (in diamonds, of course), with 4♠ making. Indeed, if partner had passed, you surely would double, partner would likely bid spades (having zero defense), and you'd bid the game (well, probably).

Oh well, fortune favors the bold, they say. But not this time.

Quote for the Month: “The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt.” (Bertrand Russell)

Until next month ...