

Pomona-Covina Unit News

September 2019

Unit Game: Saturday September 21,
11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, September 14, 9:30 a.m., Chino

Yes, the Individual is delayed one week, to avoid conflict with the Costa Mesa Regional.

The top finisher in the August Individual was Your Correspondent. Newcomer Arthur Weinstein was second, Don Logsdon tied with Clint Lew for third, and Linda Tessier placed fifth.

The August Unit game was another real squeaker, making last month's ½ point winning margin look like a runaway. The top two finishers from last month swapped places: Penny and Gino Barbieri nosed out Bill Papa – Vic Sartor by 0.06 matchpoint. Margie Hall – Sandra Rucker tied for third with Amr Elghamry – Joe Viola. Newcomers Arthur Weinstein – Stephen Andersen took top honors in flight C.

The last full week of this month (that's the 24th, 26th, and 27th) we will hold club championship games at La Fetra. That means extra masterpoints for the same low, low price.

Advance Notice: October is Club Appreciation month. That also means special games paying extra masterpoints. (No extra entry fee.) The plan is to hold 3 team games and 3 pairs games (1 each, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday). The team games pay 5% gold points, believe it or not. The dates? Hard to say at this time! Obviously we need full tables for this to work, no half tables. Stay tuned and check out the Unit web site, I'll think of something ... either advance signups, or catch-as-catch can.

With one exception, the games this month were pretty competitive. Six pairs managed to reach the magic 65% mark, one of them twice. David Ochroch – Herb Stampfl blew away the field one evening with a monstrous 73.92% game. Bill Papa – Vic Sartor scored 68.75%, Herb Stampfl – Joe Unis managed 66.31%, Fredy and Lulu Minter scored with 66.07% and 65.97%, Ho Ming Yim – Herb Stampfl had a 65.48% game, and Hanan Mogharbel – Linda Stuart just snuck over the bar with 65.10%. (It appears that if you'd like a good score some time, you should give Herb a call!)

Others winners: Penny Barbieri, Roger Boyar, Steve Mancini, Kurt Triesellman, Paul Chrisney, Linda Tessier, Clint Lew, and Yours Truly.

41 players won a total of 88.66 masterpoints in club games within the Unit. This total does not include the STaC games. The top 5 masterpoint earners in July were Penny Barbieri (4.82), Fredy and Lulu Minter (4.56), Roger Boyar (4.53), and Don Logsdon (4.47).

Hanan Mogharbel not only got the gold she needed for Life Master in Long Beach, she's now a Bronze Life Master. Congratulations!

Our hand of the month this time is just pure fun. You surely won't learn anything from it ... except, perhaps, "better lucky than good." (But you already knew that, didn't you?) This deal, kibitzed by Your Correspondent, brings back memories of Victor Mollo's Rueful Rabbit. Sitting South, R.R. picked up this hand ... or so he thought:

♠ A4 ♥ AK432 ♦ KQJ87 ♣ 8.

A normal looking 1♥ opening right? Sure. The auction proceeded, with the opponents maintaining a respectful silence: 1♥ – 1♠; 2♦ – 4♥. The opening lead was a club, and the dummy was faced:

♠ K9862 ♥ 985 ♦ none ♣ A10763.

Declarer won the ♣A, cashed the ♠K and crossed to the ♠A. Now R.R. proceeded to play diamonds, so as to flush out that Ace. The opponents stubbornly (!) held off, RHO finally ruffing the fourth round. Placing declarer with 5-5 in the reds and *knowing* declarer had a diamond loser, RHO cashed ... the ♥A! That's right, R.R. bid the hand and played 6 tricks without noticing that the ♥A was really the ♦A. Needless to say, now 4♥ is cold. Well, as it turns out, with both spades and hearts 3-3, and diamonds 4-3, not to mention the ♥A being on side, it was always cold, on any lead. Strangely enough, no one else got there. Evidently the other players holding R.R.'s cards eschewed the 2♥ reverse over partner's 1♠, given the poor heart spots, and played 3♦, making 4 for +130 and a shared bottom.

Of course, 3NT is also cold, if played by R.R. (or by either partner if, as is the case here, the ♥K is behind the Ace), but it's hard to get there. 4♠ is makeable on the lie of the cards, if declarer plays only one round of spades, keeping a trump in dummy to guard the clubs.

Go figure!

Quote for the month: "Advice: the smallest current coin." (Ambrose Bierce)