

Pomona-Covina Unit News

September 2020

Well, sports fans, we had to cancel the August Unit game again for lack of participants. So ... those of you on the Bridge Alert list already know this, but ... we are going to let YOU, the players, let US know when to restart in-person Bridge. Both the Individual and the Unit game are on hiatus until further notice.

No promotions to report again this month.

I, personally, had to take a trip back East last month, which explains (somewhat) my limited appearances on BBO. My sister and I drove across country, taking 6 days (we took it easy but didn't stop for sightseeing) to reach Niagara Falls, our home town. There I enjoyed some leisure before flying back home. "What happened to the car?" I hear you cry. I sold it to my grand-nephew – that was the purpose of the trip. For those of you wondering, it was NOT a hardship wearing a face mask for the 11 hours or so the flight home took. (Well, I did get to the airport *way* too early.) So surely, 3 hours for a bridge game would be manageable?

I'm sure you enjoyed Rick Roeder's little musical addition to the world of Bridge. Those of you who know me will understand that I simply *cannot* resist this small addition: Your partner fails to cash the setting trick, relinquishes the lead, and then you watch in horror as declarer pitches all his remaining losers on a concealed long suit. The music now playing? "Eat It," Weird Al Yankovic's wonderful parody of Michael Jackson's "Beat It." [I love the double joke, since if pard *had* cashed that trick, he would indeed "Beat It."]

For our Hand-of-the-Month, we present a moderately interesting hand from the Monday night PPDVBC game. Board 1, no less. The results themselves aren't anything spectacular: in a 7 table game we had a 4-way tie for top. It's the auction I found fascinating. Your mileage may differ, of course. Here goes. You are West, holding this modest hand:

♠ A 10 9 8 ♥ Q 7 3 2 ♦ A 5 3 2 ♣ 10

Dealer passes, and partner opens the bidding 1♦. RHO passes (I'm not sure why, many would have overcalled 1♥ – see the full hand below), and you bid 1♥ yourself. LHO trots out 1♠, and partner goes 3♣. Hmmm. 3♦ would be a simple preference and your hand is lots better than that, so you go 4♦. Partner raises herself to 5♦, and on the expected spade lead takes 12 tricks on the following layout:

♠ Q 10 7 6 2	
♥ A J 9 8	
♦ K 7	
♣ 8 5	
♠ A J 9 8	♠ 4
♥ Q 7 3 2	♥ none
♦ A 5 3 2	♦ Q 10 9 8 6 4
♣ 10	♣ A K 9 4 3 2
♠ K 5 3	
♥ K 10 6 5 4	
♦ J	
♣ Q J 7 6	

That's right! Not only did East open with 9 HCP, she then jump-shifted with that hand. Ah, the power of shape. You can just see Mary Bergen nodding approvingly, can't you? 12 tricks with 17 working HCP between the two hands. (Surely you can see that the ♥Q and the ♠J are so much waste paper?)

If East fails to open the bidding, the hand might be passed out, you might think. But in seven plays, no one passed this hand out. (I suppose West has enough to open in third seat.) There were four pairs in 5♦ +1, one pair in 5♦ making exactly (?), one N-S pair making 3♠ (!), and one pair in 3NT ... down 2 after the ♥9 was led and ducked around to the Queen. Declarer must lose to the ♦K, and to quote Porky Pig, "thhhh-thhhh-thhhh-that's all, folks!"

Well, *I* thought it was interesting.

Quote for the month: "I'm sure the universe is full of intelligent life. It's just been too intelligent to come here." (Arthur C. Clarke)