

Pomona-Covina Unit News

September 2022

Individual: September 3, 10 a.m., Ontario
October 1, 10 a.m., TBD

Club Championships: September 6 and 9, La Fetra

Unit Game: Saturday September 17, 11:00 a.m.,
Glendora

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

In the August Individual, Kiran Kumar took top honors with a 60.42% effort. Trailing here we find John Jones in second, Linda Tessier and Caryn Mason tied for third, Stephen Andersen fifth, followed by Art Weinstein and Art Wallace rounding out the leader board.

In the August Unit game, Susan Emminger – Gary Atwell edged out Vic Sartor – Nona Stokes, by less than one matchpoint, for top honors. Lulu and Fredy Minter were third, Hanan Mogharbel – Kiran Kumar next, and Steve Mancini – Caryn Mason rounded out the honors list.

There were no rank advancements this month.

Topping the charts again this month are Fredy and Lulu Minter, with an impressive 72.982% game. This beat out two 67.5%+ performances, one by Caryn Mason – Richard Parker, and another by Hanan Mogharbel – Yours Truly. The only others in the winners' circle were by Bill Papa and Vic Sartor.

For starters in our Hand-of-the-Month Circus, here's a hand I picked up playing solitaire on BBO:

♠ none ♥ AQ10752 ♦ AKQJ862 ♣ none.

Yeppers, another "semi-balanced" hand. You don't pick up 1-loser hands very often (well, *I* don't), but there it is. I elected to open 2♣ and of course LHO preempted in spades, raised to 4♠ by RHO. Hmmmm. How can I show this two-suiter? I elected 4NT (two places to play) and got for my reward "No explanation available" from the obviously under-voltaged robot. The ensuing auction was a nightmare, the robot competing vigorously in CLUBS on six to J109, chasing me all the way to 7♦. The ♥KJ were on my right – finesseable – but of course there was no dummy entry so I could not pick them up. Down 2. Oh well.

Now for our "real" hand-of-the-month. This was hand-dealt – no, we can't blame a computer on this one – during our August Unit game. We'll start with just the North hand (which I had the pleasure to hold) and the somewhat bizarre auction. West dealt, both sides are vulnerable.

♠ AJ9874 ♥ Q109852 ♦ none ♣ 10.

(You didn't think this was going to be a 4-4-3-2 hand, did you?)

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♦ (1)	3♣	pass
3♦	4♦ (2)	4♣	pass
5♣	5♦ (3)	X	5♠
X	all pass		

- (1) Both majors
- (2) I *really meant* it, partner.
- (3) Partner, you are going to bid a major suit if I have to bid SEVEN diamonds!

Partner's hand was

♠ K1064 ♥ 74 ♦ J43 ♣ 862

The defenders had a card-play misfortune so we were down only 1, -200. We should have been down 2, which still would have been a good result, because at the other four tables, the results were (I kid you not):

6♣ =	-1370
6♣X =	-1540
6♦ +1	-1390
5♠X -2	-500

It was just *so* much fun watching the other players react as I just kept on bidding diamonds! You might take note of the fact that N-S held only 11 HCP between them ... fortunately 10 of them were in our long suits, only the ♦J being a wasted value. Or, as Marty Bergen says, "points, shmoints!"

Finally – another addition to Mr. White's hand-descriptors: this hand, with its 1-0-6-6 shape, might be called a "Hastings" over in England.

Quote for the month: "Sometimes I think the surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that none of it has tried to contact us". (Hobbes, speaking to Calvin)