

# Pomona-Covina Unit News

## September 2024

**La Fetra Games:** Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45

**Individual:** October, 5, 10 a.m., TBD

**Club Championships:** September 17, 20

**Unit Game:** September 21, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

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

We start off with some sad news. Penny Barbieri, long time Unit member, past President, past Treasurer, has passed away. I have no additional details as of this writing; I will send out details via my “Bridge Alert!” mailing list when available. You don’t get these mailings? Why not? Just pop me an email ([thomasmlill8@gmail.com](mailto:thomasmlill8@gmail.com)) and you are IN.

In the September Individual, there wasn’t any winner ... because not enough players showed up to hold a game. Sad. I guess everyone was at the Riverside, or perhaps the Beverly Hill, Sectional that day. Ah, well.

In the August Unit Game, Tim and Eileen Finlay took top honors with 60.5%. John Jones – Caryn Mason took second (for those who don’t know, John is our current District 23 President). Next we find Steve Mancini – Helen Wang, then David Ochroch – Art Weinstein, and finally Judy Mogharbel – Yours Truly rounding out the leader board.

There were no rank advancements this month.

There were four “big games” in August. The top score was turned in by Mary Ann Wotring – Vic Sartor, 70.72%. In the same game, Steve Mancini – Helen Wang scored 70.06% to finish second! (I guess the rest of us were out to lunch that day.) Fredy and Lulu Minter scored an even 70%, and Nona Stokes – Ramona Hernandez, 69.44%. Other winners last month: Bill Papa, Caryn Mason, Peter Kavounas, Patrick Finley, and Roger Boyar.

Twelve players brought home an impressive 140.48 masterpoints from the Irvine Regional. The top five:

Clint Lew	30.05
Tim Finlay	17.79
Eileen Finlay	17.79
Peter Kavounas	17.32
Amr Elghamry	15.30

Here’s a hand that came up last month that is *almost* “semi-balanced” (as *I* define it, that is).

But I’m not going to show it to you yet ... let’s test your opening leads, first. You are East, and hold

♠ QJ84 ♥ 42 ♦ J654 ♣ AQJ.

You are treated to a somewhat unusual auction. With neither side vulnerable, West deals and passes. North opens 1♣. You pass, and South calls 4♣, which they play as ace-

asking. North duly shows one ace, 4♥, and South passes! What do you lead? If you lead the ♣A, what do you follow up with when partner plays the ♣4 (discouraging)?

Under the circumstances, you don't know whether they are missing one ace, or two! As it happens, I led the ♠Q. WRONG! Making six, because the full deal was:

<u>North</u>		
♠ A K 7		
♥ 7		
♦ Q 9 8 3		
♣ K 9 7 6 3		
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ 10 9 7 5 2		♠ Q J 8 4
♥ none		♥ 4 2
♦ A 10 7 2		♦ J 6 5 4
♣ 10 8 5 4		♣ A Q J
<u>South</u>		
♠ 3		
♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 6 5 3		
♦ K		
♣ 2		

That's right, a 10-card suit! Well, I suppose you *could* consider a 10-1-1-1 hand to be "semi-balanced."

Against a more revealing auction, you just might find the ♣A lead and follow up with a diamond shift when partner plays low (suit preference, don't you know). And to complete the silliness, the hand record claims the par result is 5♠X by E-W down two for -300. Even if the auction goes 1♣ – 1♥, which of you is going to come into the auction????

And here's one strictly for laughs. Or groans, as the case may be. 10 HCP is an average hand, right? Well, no, because notwithstanding Walter the Walrus, there are points and there are POINTS. In a recent BBO game, I had the dubious pleasure of picking up the following 10-count:

♠ QJ5   ♥ QJ32   ♦ J104   ♣ QJ3.

That's right. 4-3-3-3 with three Queens and all four Jacks. And those terrible spot cards! Ewwwwwwww! Can you think of a worse 10-count? I cannot! Even if you held QJ bare, you'd have a five-card suit somewhere as consolation. OK, ok, *one* worse 10 HCP hand: replace the ♦ 10 with the ♦ 2. Big whoopee!

Even better (you get THREE hands this month, what luck), here's a gem I picked up at the Irvine Regional. (It's approximate, but pretty close, and exact as to the high cards ... such as they were.)

♠ 1063   ♥ 8632   ♦ 6542   ♣ 63.

Yes, indeed. One 10, no nines, one eight, and 11 cards six or below. Not the worst hand I've ever been dealt, but pretty close!

Quote for the month: “Formula for success: rise early, work hard, strike oil. (John Paul Getty)