

Pomona-Covina Unit News

August 2025

Pomona – Covina

by Tom Lill

www.acblunit551.org

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45

Individual: September 13, 10:00 a.m., Ontario

Club Championships: September 16, 19, La Fetra

Unit Pairs Game: August 16, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

September 20, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

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

In the July Unit game, which had been delayed due to circumstances beyond my control, we had a most unusual occurrence: a three-way tie for the top spot! Steve Mancini – Vic Sartor, Serena Mougharbel – Tom Cusack, and Caryn Mason – Patrick Finley all posted 57.41% games. Ramona Hernandez - Nona Stokes were fourth, and Kitty Moon – Richard Parker rounded out the leader board.

In the August Individual, Rosalie Roberts won with a 62.5% effort. Judy Mogharbel was just ½ matchpoint behind, then we find Gloria Harrison and Dan Robinson.

Please note, the September Individual will be delayed by one week (see above) due to conflict with the Orange County Regional in Irvine.

Thanks again to Patrick Finley, for collating the masterpoint statistics for July. At La Fetra:

1	9.82	Patrick Finley
2	8.59	Caryn Mason
3	7.99	Fredy Minter
3	7.99	Lulu Minter
5	6.73	Vic Sartor
6	5.42	Steve Mancini
7	3.49	Nona Stokes
7	3.49	Ramona Hernandez
9	3.35	Clint Lew
9	3.35	Linda Tessier

And at the Claremont Bridge Club:

1	1.39	Steve Andersen
2	1.37	Patrick Finley
3	1.30	David Ochroch
4	1.16	Duane Woodman
5	1.093	Patrick Rogers

At La Fetra, all the 65%+ games were posted by Fredy and Lulu Minter: 76.18%, 75.69%, 72.27%, 71.35%. They condescended to let a few other folks top the leader board on occasion: Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Vic Sartor, and Caryn Mason.

Over in Claremont, there was one big game, a 67.97% posted by Gary Atwell – Duane Woodman. These folks were also winners: David Ochroch, Kitty Moon, Tom Cusack, Steve Andersen, Patrick Rogers, Patrick Finley, Maria Marvosh, and Cynthia Pearson.

Some of our players had success at the Laguna Woods Sectional. The best effort was turned in by Clint Lew – Steve Anderson, finishing 3rd in B overall in the Saturday Morning Pairs. Judy Mogharbel and Yours Truly took 4th

in B in the afternoon session. Serena Mougharbel was 2nd overall in flight B in the 0-20 pairs. Finally, the team of Peter Kavounas, Richard Parker, Dan Robinson, and Carl Silsbee were 2nd in B in the Sunday Swiss teams.

We had four promotions last month. Olivia Esquibel has advanced to Club Master. Peter Kavounas is an Advanced NABC Master (that corresponds to what used to qualify as a Life Master before 2010 – when the League upped the requirements for LM). Steve Andersen is a Life Master, and finally, Helen Wang is a Ruby Life Master. Congratulations, all!

As many of you know, we use hands from The Common Game at La Fetra. It turns out that two of our members had a fabulous game on Tuesday 8/12. Caryn Mason and Patrick Finley had the highest score (69.22%) in the country among the 43 clubs and 354 pairs playing those same hands with a Howell movement, which placed us eighth all told among the 1769 pairs who took part nationally (there were also 737 pairs playing N-S in the Mitchell games).

For our hand-of-the-month, we'll have a second consecutive non-semi-balanced hand. (Wow, you say, the old boy must be slipping.) Here goes – I'll show the entire deal. North deals, no one is vulnerable.

North			
♠ Q			
♥ A 8 6 4 3 2			
♦ K J 6			
♣ 6 5			
West		East	
♠ A 8 6 5 4		♠ K 9 7 2	
♥ 10		♥ K J 9 7 5	
♦ 8 7 5 3		♦ 4	
♣ A K J 7 4 2		♣ K 8 3	
South			
♠ J 10 3			
♥ Q			
♦ Q 9 7 4 2			
♣ A Q 6 3 2			

First question: do you open the North hand? If so, is it 1♥ or 2♥? You have six hearts, but the suit's texture is rotten. On the other hand, you only have 12 total points with 1½ quick tricks, and a bare Queen to boot, not an opening one-bid by many people's standards.

If you do not open, then South might open light in third seat. Either way, West will certainly bid 1♠, and E-W will likely find their spade game. Assuming West plays the clubs for the maximum, drawing only two rounds of trumps, 4♠ makes.

OK, let's say you open 1♥. South will probably respond 1NT (forcing) or 2♦, and North either rebids the hearts or passes 2♦. In either case, West should reopen, nyet? E-W will still get to some spade contract.

But let's say North throws caution to the winds and opens 2♥. East is certainly happy to pass, (When they want to play in your best suit, LET THEM!) South has nothing to say ... and West should certainly reopen with a double. Now East is on the rack. 2♠? 3♠? Or a penalty pass, perhaps?

An my table, North did open 2♥, pass pass, X; pass, and Your Hero, East, stewed for a bit before passing. (Of course I didn't know about West's 5 card spade suit.) +300, a top, as *no one* played in the spade game! In fact, no one even played in a spade contract! Go figure.

Bridge – such an *easy* game!

Quote for the month: “My early choice in life was either to be a piano player in a whorehouse or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference.” (Harry S Truman)