

Pomona-Covina Unit News

February 2026

La Fetra Games:	Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
Claremont Bridge Club:	Thursdays 9:30
Individual:	March 7, 10:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Pairs Game:	February 21, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Pairs Game:	March 14, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Board Meeting:	10:15 a.m. before the game
STaC:	March 10 and 13, La Fetra
UNIT 551 Sectional:	March 20-22 at the Upland Women's Club

In the January Unit Game, we had another nice turnout, enabling us to run another Mitchell – 7 tables, this time. The overall winners were Mary Ann Wotring – Vic Sartor, with 61.56%. Second overall, and first E-W were Steve Andersen – Art Weinstein. Next in the overalls: Kiran Kumar – Judy Mogharbel, then Tom Lill – Amr Elghamry, and finally Tim and Eileen Finlay.

In the February Individual, top honors went to Art Weinstein, who dominated the field with a 75% game. In second was Steve Anderson, followed by Ramona Hernandez, with Cici Mougharbel and Dan Robinson tying for the final spot on the leader board.

Thanks again to Patrick Finley, for collating the masterpoint statistics for January. But first – Your Correspondent inexplicably overlooked one of the leaders for 2025. Well, I've only known Vic for 25+ years, so the omission is understandable. Here are the CORRECT La Fetra standings for 2025:

1	125.51	Fredy Minter
2	125.43	Patrick Finley
3	119.66	Caryn Mason
4	118.08	Lulu Minter
5	115.58	Vic Sartor
6	82.63	Mary Ann Wotring
7	72.10	Ramona Hernandez
8	69.66	Nona Stokes
9	66.36	Steve Andersen
10	63.07	Tom Lill

The January figures:

At La Fetra:

1	9.53	Vic Sartor
2	8.62	Caryn Mason
2	8.621	Patrick Finley
4	6.45	Lulu Minter
5	5.52	Mary Ann Wotring
6	4.85	Kurt Trieselmann
6	4.85	Duane Woodman
8	4.82	Clint Lew
8	4.82	Linda Tessier
10	4.34	Fredy Minter

And at the Claremont Bridge Club:

1	1.80	Patrick Finley
2	1.52	Steve Andersen
3	1.28	Patrick Rogers
4	1.25	David Ochroch
5	1.00	Marjorie Preston

At La Fetra, two pairs topped the magic 65% benchmark: Fredy and Lulu Minter had a monster 73.46% game, and Vic Sartor – Caryn Mason had a nice 65.10% outing. Other winners: Durane “Woody” Woodman, Kurt Triselmann, Patrick Finley, Clint Lew, and Linda Tessier.

That 73%-er illustrates why I don’t care to run a Mitchell movement even with seven full tables. Because the field has to be as balanced as possible, often there’s only one very strong pair in each direction. Oh well.

Over in Claremont, three of the four winning scores topped 65% - but just barely! Steve Andersen – Marjorie Preston had the best game, at 66.14%. Next were Tim and Eileen Finlay, 65.63%. Finally, we find Patrick Rogers – Patrick Finley at 65.08%.

There were no promotions again last month.

For our Hand of the Month, I have an (I think) interesting one for you, played at La Fetra. I present first just my hand – I was East, West dealt, and only N-S were vulnerable:

♠ A K J 9 8 ♥ A J 8 6 ♦ none ♣ 9 8 6 4.

Partner opened 1NT (15-17), North passed, and it seems obvious to use Stayman, right? No problem so far. South passed, and partner showed her spade suit. Now what?

The choices seem to be 3♥ (partner would no doubt read that as 5-5 in the majors); a 3♦ advance cue bid (which partner would no doubt take as a second suit), 5♦ (Exclusion Blackwood, which unfortunately we do not play), 4♠ (and give the man a white feather), and ... what’s left? I decided that using science would just help the defenders so I blasted 6♠! (Another advantage of that kind of bid is enjoying the look partner gives you!) The full deal was:

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

North made the obvious lead of the ♦10, after which partner rolled home with all 13 tricks. Bridge Composer says 6♠ can be made even with a heart opening lead; if you can see how, I’d like to partner you sometime.

Oddly, no one else even bid the slam. One other pair did make 12 tricks. Oh well, nothing ventured, nothing gained, I guess. This one almost made up for some of our more fatuous results.

Quote for the month: Part of the secret of success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside.” (Mark Twain)