

Pomona-Covina Unit News

January 2026

La Fetra Games:	Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
Claremont Bridge Club:	Thursdays 9:30
Individual:	February 7, 10:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Pairs Game:	January 17, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Pairs Game:	February 21, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Board Meeting:	10:15 a.m. before the game

And another BIG ANNOUNCEMENT: after a hiatus of more than two decades (we held our last Sectional, a 299er affair, in 2003), we are going to try again. This will be a joint effort with Unit 516, the High Desert unit. It will be held at the Upland Women's Club (in Upland, if you had not guessed that), March 20-22. It will be a "Local Sectional," and guess who will be the DIC? Nope. Guess again. Details will be announced as they become available. The flyer is not ready yet, but should be soon.

In the December 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.

Not enough players showed up for the January Individual. Possibly this is due to the fact that(*sarcasm alert*) Your Local Genius forgot to send out the Bridge Alert in late December. We'll try again in February, on the normal date (first Saturday, 2/7). Sigh.

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

1	11.25	Vic Sartor
2	10.27	Caryn Mason
3	9.61	Patrick Finley
4	7.07	Mary Ann Wotring
5	6.92	Tom Lill
6	5.90	Judy Mogharbel
7	4.64	Steve Andersen
8	3.44	Peter Kavounas
8	3.44	Richard Parker
10	2.76	Ramona Hernandez
10	2.76	Nona Stokes

The leaders for 2025:

1	125.51	Fredy Minter
2	125.43	Patrick Finley
3	119.66	Caryn Mason
4	118.08	Lulu Minter
5	82.63	Mary Ann Wotring
6	72.10	Ramona Hernandez
7	69.66	Nona Stokes
8	66.36	Steve Andersen
9	63.07	Tom Lill
10	61.04	Peter Kavounas

The above totals include all La Fetra games (including the individual games), and the Unit games.

And at the Claremont Bridge Club:

1	1.51	Steve Andersen
2	0.90	Olivia Esquibel
2	0.90	Todd Shimoda
4	0.86	David Ochroch
5	0.84	Patrick Finley
5	0.84	Patrick Rogers

The leaders for 2025:

1	12.33	Patrick Finley
2	9.29	Steve Andersen
3	8.64	Patrick Rogers
4	7.69	David Ochroch
5	6.48	Duane Woodman
6	6.20	Gary Atwell
7	5.17	Kitty Moon
8	4.59	Tom Lill
9	3.73	Dan Robinson
10	3.13	Carl Silsbee

We had a pretty good year, considering. We had 602.5 tables at La Fetra, 120 at our Unit games, and 114.5 over in Claremont. For La Fetra, that's our best year since 2017, and for the Unit, the best since before 2006 (that's as far back as the ACBL website shows). Of course, in 2025, we had some team games which add to the total. And this is the first year of operation for Claremont.

At La Fetra, two pairs topped the magic 65% benchmark: Fredy and Lulu Minter had a monster 72.46% game, and Vic Sartor – Caryn Mason had an impressive 70.24 outing. Other winners: Mary Ann Wotring, Patrick Finley, Judy Mogharbel, and Yours Truly.

Over in Claremont, again two of the three game-winners topped 65%. Gary Atwell – Duane Woodman scored an impressive 77.08%, and while Caryn Mason – Steve Mancini scored 73.96%. Tom Lill – Steve Andersen were the only other leader – only three games in December, Christmas falling on a Thursday.

There were no promotions again last month; rather surprising, considering the recently concluded Palm Springs Regional.

For our Hand of the Month, we return to the Laurel & Hardy School of Bridge
East Deals, no one vulnerable

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

OK, it isn't the hand itself that is unusual, it's the auction and the result!

East opened 1♦, which was Alerted and explained as either 11-16 with or without diamonds, OR a big hand with diamonds which planned to reverse on the next round. OK, so I called 2♣. West passed with that dog pile, and North bid 2♦! This was questioned by West, and was explained as "limit raise or better in clubs," which was certainly our agreement ... although it does not *quite* describe the North hand accurately. East had nowhere to go, and neither did I, so 3♣. Pass, then 3♥ from North! Pass from East, and oh, boy what now? Hoping that partner had something in spades, I tried 3NT, which became the final contract. The opening lead was the ♠10.

As you can see, on any lead but a heart, all 13 tricks roll home. On a low heart lead, making 5, and on the lead of the ♥J, making 4. According to Bridge Composer, North makes 6NT (remember this is double-dummy) and South makes 4NT.

Our +520 was a tie for top; no one found the slam. Well, North is sort of semi-balanced: 6-4-2-1!

Quote for the month: "Never Explain – Friends do not need it and your Enemies will not believe you anyway." (Elbert Hubbard)