

Pomona-Covina Unit News

July 2024

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
Individual: August 3, 10 a.m., Ontario
STaC: August 20, 23, La Fetra
Club Championships: August 13, 16
Unit Game: August 17, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

In the June Individual, the top spot was captured by Kiran Kumar with a nice 66.67% effort. Then we see Kitty Moon, Peter Kavounas, Stephen Andersen, and finally Dan Robinson tying with Ramona Hernandez for the final spot on the leader board.

In the June Unit Game, Kiran Kumar – Judy Mogharbel took the top spot with 57.30%. In second, Caryn Mason – Stephen Andersen; then Clint Lew – Linda Tessier, followed by Vic Sartor – Bill Papa.

There was one rank advancement again this month. Harish Singh is now a Ruby Life Master. That's 1500 masterpoints, folks, with an assortment of pigmented points of course.

There were five “big games” in June. Two were turned in by Fredy and Lulu Minter, 72.02% and 71.76%. Two more by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa, 66.59% and 65.26. The last one – good for only second place behind you-know-who, was My Yours Truly and Judy Mogharbel, 65.51%. Other winners: Gary Atwell, Robert Chou, Mary Ann Wotring, Clint Lew, and Ramona Hernandez.

We have raised (so far) \$559 for The Longest Day (Alzheimer's Association). Donations made by July 31 count toward our kudos. If you want to donate, you may do so online at <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>. No, in spite of what the picture seems to say, we did *not* serve spirits during the game.

Some of the Longest Day Crew



Steve Andersen,

Clint Lew

Linda Tessier, You-Know-Who

Eleven of our Unit members brought home a total of 69.53 masterpoints. The biggest winner was Steve Andersen, with 11.69. Tying for second were Richard Parker and Caryn Mason, with 9.81 each. Fourth we have Mary Ann Wotring with 6.99, then Sofi Kasubhai with 6.14. Where was Yours Truly? Don't ask, because I won't tell! Let's just say I've had better outings.

For this month, I have a hand that illustrates that no matter what system you play – nothing works every single time. The hand came up during a team event at the Bridge Week Regional in Long Beach. Both sides are vulnerable. Partner deals and opens 1♣. Over to you, holding (spots are approximate – I played 336 board that week, and can hardly remember my name now, let alone every pip!):

♠ K83 ♥ AQ7 ♦ A92 ♣ Q1052

Well? If your system includes “Inverted Minor Raises,” you have an easy 2♣ bid. Partner will respond 2NT, you will raise to 3NT.

If you are playing old-fashioned Goren – which pretty much no one does any more – you have an even easier 3NT bid, since this hand falls squarely in the 16-18 “dead zone,” difficult to describe.

But playing neither method, I had a choice: sign off in 3NT, giving up all slam hopes, or the call I actually selected: 2♦. Partner's rebid was 2♥, and seeing no hope of slam, I just blasted 3NT. The opening lead was the ♥10 (!), and this was the dummy I found:

♠ AQ7 ♥ K642 ♦ J5 ♣ A983

♠ K83 ♥ AQ7 ♦ A92 ♣ Q1052

Ready for the results? I pulled in 10 tricks: 3♠s, 3♥s, 1♦, and 3♣s (they were 3-2 with the Jack favorably placed). And what happened at the other table? Down 1! How can this be, you ask? Hearts were 6-0 and diamonds were 2-6! If partner declares, she gets the fatal diamond lead, and since your RHO has the ♣K, there's no hope.

Now, I am not claiming virtue or merit on this one. It's just an illustration that even the best system is going to go awry on occasion!

Another minor (pun intended) point is that I was forced to bid a 3-card suit. Partner is unlikely to raise but that would be absolutely wonderful – a double fit! And assuming diamonds were breaking evenly after all, the 1♦ bid would tend to inhibit the lead of that suit.

Quote for the month: “In Greece wise men speak and fools decide.” (Anacharsis)