

Pomona-Covina Unit News

July 2025

Pomona – Covina

by Tom Lill

www.acblunit551.org

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45

Individual: NO Individual in July

August 2, 10:00 a.m., Ontario

Club Championships: August 12, 15, La Fetra

Unit Pairs Game: July 26, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

August 16, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

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

Thanks again to Patrick Finley, for collating the masterpoint statistics for June:

1	14.69 Vic Sartor
2	13.79 Fredy Minter
3	13.39 Lulu Minter
4	13.38 Caryn Mason
5	10.80 Peter Kavounas
6	10.60 Mary Ann Wotring
7	9.65 Patrick Finley
8	8.47 Steve Andersen
9	7.17 Clint Lew
10	7.14 Richard Parker

These totals include all La Fetra and Unit games, but don't include points won at outside tournaments or clubs, or in online games. I will do a separate list for the new Claremont Bridge Club, which has only played 3 games to date:

1	1.66 Patrick Finley
2	1.35 Steve Andersen
3	1.33 Art Weinstein
4	1.23 Judy Mogharbel
	1.23 Tom Lill

The CBC game is a "limited" club, and only holds one game a week, so the point totals are going to be lower than expected.

And, just for your amusement and amazement, here's the top 20 masterpoint grabbers for the first six months of 2025. Again, these totals include all La Fetra and Unit games, but not the CBC games (yet – maybe next month).

1	93.32 Fredy Minter
2	81.95 Lulu Minter
3	69.88 Vic Sartor
4	68.59 Partick Finley

5	67.68	Caryn Mason
6	55.97	Mary Ann Wotring
7	45.00	Steve Andersen
8	40.01	Ramona Hernandez
9	38.85	Nona Stokes
10	37.80	Peter Kavounas
11	34.02	Tom Lill
12	33.88	Roger Boyar
13	31.50	Gary Atwell
14	29.20	Clint Lew
15	28.63	Judy Mogharbel
16	28.19	Steve Mancini
17	25.89	Linda Tessier
18	22.08	Duane Woodman
19	19.31	Bill Papa
20	19.08	Dave Raymond

At La Fetra, the very top score was posted by – brace yourself, better be sitting down – Karen McCarthy and Yours Truly, with 67.63%. Well, as I’ve said before, even a blind squirrel finds an acorn now and then. (This is of course no reflection on Karen!) Next up we find Fredy and Lulu Minter, 65.19% (twice). Those were the only over-65% games turned in. I suppose, with the fields getting larger, there won’t be such wild swings in the scoring. Other winners include Clint Lew – Linda Tessier, Ramona Hernandez – Nona Stokes, Peter Kavounas – Richard Parker, and Vic Sartor – Mary Ann Wotring.

There have only been three games so far at the newly-opened Claremont Bridge Club, run by David Ochroch. The best game so far is a monster 74.43% game turned in by Art Weinstein – Steve Andersen. The next two were turned in by Judy Mogharbel – Yours Truly, 68.0% and 67.46%. Finally, Patrick Finley – Patrick Rogers managed a section top.

There were no promotions *again* last month. But, having edited the Bridge Week Daily Bulletins, I can state with certainty that there will be at least one in next month’s issue.

13 Unit members brought home the impressive total of 180.80 masterpoints from the Long Beach Regional, and almost ALL of them were gold points! The top five finishers, with their ranking in the overall tournament list, were:

53	31.22	Stephen Andersen
68	26.16	Caryn Mason
74	25.43	Richard Parker
84	22.93	Peter Kavounas
98	19.94	Mary Ann Wotring

For our hand-of-the-month, we’ll try something different. What, you say? Not another semi-balanced hand? Nope! This time, it’s “You Make the Call: Bad luck ... or bad bid?”

It's IMPs, and first in hand you pick up

♠ Kxxx ♥ Kx ♦ Kx ♣ AQ10xx.

Normal (?) people will open this 1♣. But let's think about this. You have FOUR suits you'd like to have led up to, not through. And you have 15 HCP. Would you consider a slightly off-shape 1NT? That virtually guarantees the lead will run up to your hand.

At the table, Your Correspondent did open 1NT. After a Stayman sequence, the final contract became 4♠. The opening lead was a small club, and you stared in disbelief at your dummy:

♠ AQJx ♥ Ax ♦ xx ♣ J9xxx.

What a horrible duplication in shape! Still, you see 11 tricks, 12 if the ♦A is on side. Except ... RHO ruffs the lead! And of course, the ♦AQ are sitting over the ♦K, so you are down one before you can catch your breath.

Played by partner, 4♠ as it will be if you open 1♣, will likely make 11 tricks, since the holder of ♣Kxx is not likely to shift to a club into the ♣AQ when he doesn't know about the five clubs in the closed hand.

So, does this qualify for the Karapet Djoulikian Unlucky Hand of the Year award, or are you guilty of masterminding the deal? You make the call!

Quote for the month: "The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook." (Julia Child)