

Pomona-Covina Unit News

June 2024

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45

Individual: July 13, 10 a.m., Upland

STaC: July 9, 12, La Fetra

Unit Game: June 15, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
July 20, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

The Longest Day: June 21, La Fetra

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

The May Individual was captured by Eileen Finlay, with 64.77%. In second we find Julianne Curry, then Clint Lew, Steve Andersen, and Linda Tessier rounded out the leader board.

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 May Unit Game, Fredy Minter - Amr Elghamry captured overall honors, with 63.1%. Behind them were Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, Tim and Eileen Finlay, and finally Nancy Stebbins – Art Weinstein.

There was one rank advancement this month. Violet Anderson is now a Junior Master.

There were some interesting “big games” this month. The oddest was turned in early in the month, when Tim and Eileen Finlay scored 69.27% ... and finished THIRD! In that same game, Yours Truly and Judy Mogharbel scored 71.88% ... and finished SECOND! The winners of that game were Fredy and Lulu Minter, scoring a monstrous 77.60%. Go figure! The other big games were turned in by Fredy Minter and Roger Boyar, 68.75%; Caryn Mason – Art Weinstein, 65.28%; and Fredy and Roger again, just sneaking over the bar at 65.10%. Other winners in May: Gary Atwell, Steve Andersen, Mary Ann Wotring, Peter Kavounas, Judy Mogharbel, and Yours Truly.

Don't forget about The Longest Day, June 21 at La Fetra. All proceeds go to the Alzheimer's Association. For this special game, the entry fee is raised to \$6.

A team including our Steve Andersen captured the Bracket 2 Team game down in Huntington Beach, earning a nice 7.19 silver points. Nice going, Steve.

Oh, do I have a hand for you *this* month! Believe it or not – I wouldn't make up anything this silly – this hand came up during a La Fetra club game. (Don't believe me? Check the results for Tuesday, May 28 – it's a game from The Common Game.) I'll give you just the South hand first. North deals, only N-S are vulnerable:

♠ none ♥ AQJ75 ♦ none ♣ AKQ106542

“Only” 16 HCP, right W.W.? Look again – it's a *one-loser hand*! After two passes, I opened 2♣. LHO doubled (he has an 18-count!) and partner bid 2♦. We didn't have any special agreement about 2♦ after the double. RHO passed, and I bid ... 2♥! If partner didn't raise, I planned to keep bidding clubs until she got sick of it and went home, I guess. But she raised me

to 4♥ – showing some trump support but little else – and I said what-the-heck (to myself of course) and shot 6♥. This was met with another double by LHO, so 6♥X became the final contract. As you can see, it is stone cold on any lead, the entire deal being:

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

Poor West. With the best hand at the table, at least in terms of HCP, he's helpless even if he finds a club lead. +1660 was of course worth all the matchpoints. The rest of the field was all over the place, all declared by South: 5♣ making 6 twice, +620; 5♣X making 6, +950; and 2♣X making 4 overtricks (!), for a very rare vulnerable +980. Evidently no one else thought to show the heart suit first. Go figure. Seemed clear to me, but then, as always, my invitation to the prestigious Cavendish tournament seems to have gotten lost again this year. Sigh.

I'm sure that the pair scoring +980 were somewhat disappointed to find that their score was not a top!

We note that West would be well advised to read the chapter in S. J. Simon's *Why You Lose at Bridge* on the mathematics of doubling. Not that it would have helped this time, with all the other Souths having been mesmerized by that club suit!

Finally – you think *you* get some poor hands? Check *this* one out! I had already picked up a true Yarborough that session – that is, a hand with no honor cards, not even a 10-spot – when this gem came along:

♠ 32 ♥ 9432 ♦ Q532 ♣ 543

Indeed. *Two* cards higher than a 6-spot ... and one of those a 9-spot. One card from a true Yarborough. This may be the second-worst hand I've ever held. Let's mirror-image the hand, counting four points for a deuce, three for a trey, etc. Then that hand would count up to 30 anti-points. How often have *you* held 30 HCP? Not often, I would bet! Once again, if my mathematics are correct (it *does* happen on occasion), the odds against picking up 30 HCP are better than 113,580 to 1. The odds against picking up that absolute hound-dog must be about the same.

Quote for the month: "Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.. (Mark Twain)