

Pomona-Covina Unit News

June 2026

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
Claremont Bridge Club: Thursdays 9:30
Individual: NO Individual in July
The Longest Day: June 19, 8:45 a.m., La Fetra
Unit Pairs Game: June 20, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Team Game: July 11, 9:30 a.m., Ontario
Unit Pairs Game: July 18, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

Our “Longest Day” fundraiser will be Friday, June 19, the regular La Fetra game. We’ll be asking for DONATIONS of \$10 per player for this event. ALL entry fees will go to the Alzheimer’s Association, as the Director will be paid what he’s worth ... OK, an old joke. Not sorry though. You know me!

Here’s the link for online donations:

<https://events.alz.org/fundraisers/thomaslill/unit-551-acbl-do-what-you-love-to-end-alz>

In the June Individual, Sofi Kasubhai turned in an impressive 72.73% effort to take top honors. Newcomer (to our games, at any rate) Elliot Meltzer took second, Judy Mogharbel tied third David Ochroch fourth, and Nony Bernal rounded out the list of top finishers.

In the May Unit game, Tim and Eileen Finlay topped the field with 62.04%. Steve Mancini – Patrick Finley placed second, Steve Andersen – David Raymond third, and Yours Truly – Judy Mogharbel squeaked into fourth.

Our June team game was a rousing success, with 10 teams vying for glory. The team of Vic Sartor, Caryn Mason, Patrick Finley, and Steve Mancini trashed the field, winning all four matches. Second was taken by the team of Karen McCarthy, Bruce Leavitt, Joe Maresh, and Mark Gersh. The “show” window paid off to Elizabeth Silvius, David Kennedy, Richard Parker, Vaughn Inman, and Robert Davis. (Yes, 5- and 6-person teams are allowable.)

We had one promotions this month: Vaughan Inman is now a Club Master.

Thanks again to Patrick Finley, for collating the masterpoint statistics for May.

At La Fetra:

1	10.26	Fredy Minter
2	10.21	Patrick Finley
3	9.82	Caryn Mason
4	8.96	Tom Lill
5	8.07	Steve Mancini
6	7.86	Nona Stokes
6	7.86	Ramona Hernandez
8	7.85	Amr Elghamry
9	5.87	Steve Andersen
10	5.22	Vic Sartor

And at the Claremont Bridge Club:

1	1.88	Patrick Finley
1	1.88	Steve Mancini
3	1.71	Tom Cusack
3	1.71	Sofi Kasubhai
5	1.46	Peter Kavounas
5	1.46	Tom Lill

At La Fetra, no fewer than six pairs topped the magic 65% benchmark. Leading the rest were Peter Kavounas – Richard Parker with a very nice 71.19% game. Then there is a cluster just over the bar. Caryn Mason – Patrick Finley scored 67.00%, Fredy Minter – Amr Elghamry 68.63%, Karen McCarthy – Yours Truly at 65.33%, then Fredy and Amr again at 65.33%, and final Caryn and Patrick again, at 65.25% – which was only good for second place that day! Vic Sartor, Ramona Hernandez, and Nona Stokes also found themselves winners.

Over in Claremont, there was only one game over the magic 65%, but it was a whopper: 77.51%, by Steve Mancini and Patrick Finley. The other leaders at least gave the other players a chance: Marjorie Prestonz – Steve Andersen at 69.44%, and Yours Truly – Peter Kavounas.

Following on from last month, Patrick Finley also collated the list of Mini-McKenney winners from our Unit that placed high in District 23. Here it is:

As many of you know, the ACBL is divided into 25 regional districts, 20 in the USA, four in Canada and one in Mexico. In each district there are three ‘races’ or competitions among its members. The Ace of Clubs Award recognizes players who earn the most black points in local, over-the-board club competition and seeks to ‘reward’ players who compete regularly at the club level. The Mini-McKenney award recognizes players who earn the most master points in sanctioned tournaments along with club games. The Ace of Virtual Clubs award recognizes players who earn master points in virtual club play online.

To encourage new and inexperienced players, each district honors fifteen categories of play, with honors going to players who begin the year with 0-5 master points, 5-20 points, and so on up to the highest level, those with 10,000 or more master points.

For District 23, which roughly corresponds to LA County, La Fetrians who placed highly in the district Mini-McKenney rankings include:

0-5 Points Serena (Ce Ce) Mougharbel was 3rd with 39 points; *Louis Sterling was 5th with 31 pts
5-20 Points Olivia Esquibel was 21st with 15 pts
50-100 Points Patrick Finley was 1st with 150 pts and David Raymond was 13th with 33 pts
100-200 pts Art Weinstein was 6th with 68 pts; Dan Robinson was 23rd with 40 pts
200-300 pts Peter Kavounas was 3rd with 153 pts; Richard Parker was 5th with 146 pts
300-500 pts Caryn Mason was 1st with 172 pts; Steve Mancini was 15th with 64 pts
500-1000 pts Stephen Andersen was 11th with 146 pts; Sofi Kasubhai was 21st with 113
1000-1500 pts Judy Mogharbel was 13th with 157 pts; Tom Lill was 15th with 150
1500-2500 pts *Fredy Minter was 2nd with 291 pts; Harish Singh was 18th with 144 pts; Clint Lew was 20th with 136
2500-3500 *Kiran Kumar was 8th with 177 pts; Vic Sartor was 14th with 135
7500-10,000 Amr Elghamry was 4th with 121 pts
10,000 up *Lulu Minter was 7th with 449 pts.

* Not Unit 551 members, but semi-regulars at our La Fetra and Unit games

Note that we have two Unit games again next month: the first one, on 7/11, is a team game followed by a BBQ lunch. Note the earlier start time for the team game! Advance sign-up is required: we can only accommodate 10 teams.

Here's another hand-of-the-month that is strictly for amusement. With no one vulnerable, after three passes, I found myself holding the following hand:

♠ Q 4 3 ♥ K 9 ♦ K Q J 10 9 8 6 4 ♣ void

Not a classical opening bid by any means, but you know the old jape: "What do you call an 8-card suit? TRUMPS!" A 1♦ opening is just begging for competition in the majors, so I decided on 3♦! The looks I got from the other three players was priceless! A fourth seat PRE-EMPT? To quote King Leonardo, "Why that's the most unheard of thing I ever heard of." But 3♦ became the final contract.

It turned out that this was the full deal:

	♠ KJ8	
	♥ 8653	
	♦ 53	
	♣ AK94	
♠ 7652		♠ A109
♥ AQ		♥ J10742
♦ 7		♦ A2
♣ QJ10532		♣ 876
	♠ Q43	
	♥ K9	
	♦ KQJ109864	
	♣ void	

The opening lead of the ♣Q enabled me to ditch my two hearts; making five! Double dummy, I can be held to 9 tricks: a spade the Ace, and a heart back through the K-9. But who (without cheating) leads a spade from that holding, when also holding that nice club sequence??

Quote for the month: "Four or five frigates will do the business without any military force." (On dealing with the rebellious American colonies, 1774). (Lord North, British Prime Minister)