

# Pomona-Covina Unit News

## May 2024

**La Fetra Games:** Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45

**Individual:** May 4, 10 a.m., Ontario

June 1, 10 a.m., TBD

**STaC:** May 7, 10, La Fetra

**Club Championships:** May 14, 17, La Fetra

**Unit Game:** May 18, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

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

**The Longest Day:** June 21, La Fetra

The April Individual was captured by Linda Tessier, with 59.09%. Tied for second – just ½ matchpoint behind – we find Art Weinstein and Dan Robinson. Rounding out the leader board were Steve Andersen and Clint Lew.

In the April Unit Game, Vic Sartor – Bill Papa captured overall honors, with 63.89%. Close behind were Larry Shannon – Harrish Singh, then Tim and Eileen Finlay, Karen McCarthy – Karen Olin, and Nancy Stebbins – Baoding Chen.

I only saw one Unit member doing well down in the San Diego Regional: Clint Lew brought home 24.20 masterpoints, ranking 87<sup>th</sup> in the overall standings. He won two bracketed team events, winning bracket three on both Wednesday and Friday.

There were two rank advancements again this month. Julianne Curry is now a Junior Master, and Esteban Andryjowicz is a Club Master.

Roger Boyar has added beginner's lessons to his Wednesday teaching schedule at La Fetra. Lessons start at 1:30, and cost \$5 per.

There were only two “big games” last month. Both were by Fredy and Lulu Minter: 68.75% and 66.33%. Well, at least we held them to only two this time. Others turning in a first place performance: Steve Andersen, Gary Atwell, Clint Lew, and Linda Tessier.

Ah, the joys of Swiss. A team consisting of Judy Mogharbel, Yours Truly, David Ochroch, and Peter Kavounas went to the Anaheim Sectional last month to compete. The good news? We won five of seven matches. The bad news? We managed to finish *fifth* in our eight-team bracket. We got slaughtered in the first two matches, winning only 5 VPs. We sucked it up, managed to pull up to even (60 VPs in 6 matches), and were poised to make a run for third or maybe even second. We waited for our final opponents to show up. And waited, and waited .... Finally our Captain went to the DIC. It turned out that our would-be opponents had rather poor time management skills, thought the event ended at five, ... and had gone home! We “won” the match by forfeit, but that’s only a 12-8 win, giving us 72 VPs. The co-winners had only 79, and third place had 75. Coulda woulda! Arrgh!

Meanwhile, a team with Linda Tessier and Steve Andersen was one of the co-winners of the event. (They lost to *us* by 11 IMPs by the way. Couldn’t resist *that!*)

Interesting hands were rare last month, but here’s one that cropped up at the last minute.

South deals. North – South are Vulnerable

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

First of all, do you open that South hand? Walter the Walrus counts 11 HCP, but look again: it's a 6-loser hand with 2 quick tricks and a convenient rebid! Even if South opens 1♥, you will probably settle in game, with only 25 HCP between the two hands. But here's one possible route to the slam: (Yes, as the cards lie, 13 tricks are inevitable, but stopping in six would still garner all the match points, since no one bid a slam on these cards.

South	North
1♥	2NT*
3♣**	4NT***
5♠****	6♥

\* Balanced forcing ♥ raise, 4 card support. You know, Jacoby 2NT.  
 \*\* Club shortness  
 \*\*\* RKC Blackwood, what else?  
 \*\*\*\* 2 key cards and either the ♥Q or extra trump length.

Simple! For 12 tricks, all you need is any one of three things: 2-1 trumps, ♥Q singleton, ruff out the ♦Q, or drop the ♦Q in one or two rounds. I'd hate to calculate the percentages, but it has to be odds-on, doesn't it? And as the cards lie, you make them all, unless you have a TIA and play a low card from both hands at some point.

But even if South doesn't open, game is going to be bid. But it will be a lot harder to find the slam.

Quote for the month: "If at first you don't succeed, try again. If that doesn't work, look for a better solution. (Kelvin Throop III)