

Pomona-Covina Unit News

November 2025

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45

Individual: December 6, 10:00 a.m., Ontario

Club Championships: December 2, 5, La Fetra

Unit Pairs Game: November 22, 11:00 a.m., Ontario:

HOLIDAY PARTY POT-LUCK

Unit Pairs Game: December 20, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

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

In the October Unit Game, Gary Atwell – Lulu Minter took first with a 70.31% game. Not too shabby. Yours Truly – Patrick Finley were next, followed by Ramona Hernandez – Nona Stokes and Tim and Eileen Finlay in a tie for third.

We also held a team game last month. In a hard-fought affair, everyone won at least two matches. The winners were Fredy and Lulu Minter teaming with Steve Andersen – Gary Atwell, with 73 VPs. Right behind with 71 VPs were Clint Lew – Linda Tessier – Tim and Eileen Finlay, with 71 VPs.

In the November Individual, Dan Robinson took first place with 62.5%. Tom Cusack was second, and Linda Tessier – Ramona Hernandez tied for third.

Thanks again to Patrick Finley, for collating the masterpoint statistics for October. At La Fetra:

1	17.29	Lulu Minter
2	16.20	Patrick Finley
3	14.00	Fredy Minter
4	9.36	Caryn Mason
5	9.90	Ramona Hernandez
6	9.01	Nona Stokes
7	8.48	Gary Atwell
8	8.16	Clint Lew
9	7.55	Steve Mancini
10	7.29	Tom Lill

And at the Claremont Bridge Club:

1	2.36	Patrick Finley
1	2.36	Patrick Rogers
3	1.45	David Ochroch
4	1.24	Steve Andersen
5	1.08	Kitty Moon

At La Fetra, there were six games over the 65% benchmark. Five of these were turned in by the Minters: 70.83%, 69.63%, 67.46%, 66.66%, and 66.02%. The other big game – good only

for second place – was turned in by Steve Mancini – Patrick Finley, 65.93%. Other winners not topping that magic 65%: Caryn Mason, Vic Sartor, Mary Ann Wotring, and Clint Lew.

Over in Claremont, all but one game's winner topped 65%. The best effort was a 75.0% whopper by Carl Silsbee – Dan Robinson. Next was another monster, 72.92% by Patrick Rogers – Patrick Finley. Then we find a 69.79% game by Ramona Hernandez – Rose Roberts (good for second place!), 67.5% by Steve Andersen – Art Weinstein (also finishing second!), and finally 66.67% by Dave Ochroch – Kitty Moon.

In tournament action, a few of our members attended the Ventura Regional. Top scorers were the partnership of Judy Mogharbel and Yours Truly, bringing home 17.70 points, all but 0.48 gold. We had a couple of heartbreakers: one board of the Saturday bracketed teams dropped us from 1st to 3rd, and again one board of the Sunday bracketed teams dropped us from 1st to 2nd. Next in line we find Amr Elghamry, with 12.57; Richard Parker and Peter Kavounas, who took first overall in the Tuesday Gold Rush and gathered 5.28; and Cici Mougharbel, who placed first in B in an open pairs game, gathering a total of 3.60. The total comes to a nice 62.13, almost all of it gold.

We had quite a few promotions last month. Cici Mougharbel has advanced to Club Master. Steve Mancini and Art Weinstein are NABC Masters. David Ochroch has advanced to Bronze Life Master. Judy Mogharbel has reached Ruby Life Master. Congratulations, All.

For our hand-of-the-month, I have a couple of oddities. First, in a BBO game, I did something that I don't think I've ever done before, in some 55 years of playing this silly game. (Well, there were some serious gaps in that span.) No, it was NOT finishing first, thank you very much. After the dealer (RHO) passed, I PASSED in 2nd seat holding Axx – Axxx – Axx – xxx. Sure, 13 total points and 3 quick tricks, but NINE losers (count them!). How did it turn out? Partner opened in 4th seat holding 18 HCP, and we reached the predestined contract of 3NT. The nice thing is, my pass allowed the contract to be right-sided, since partner had all the secondary honors and tenaces. (Better lucky than good, it seems.)

For our *real* hand, try this on for size. LHO, the dealer, opens 2♦, preemptive. Partner doubles, RHO raises the ante to 3♦, and you find yourself having to find a call with

♠ K Q 8 7 3 ♥ 9 8 6 5 4 3 ♦ 5 ♣ Q

Only our side is vulnerable. So, whaddaya gonna do, Buckwheat?

Knowing that the opponents were not timid bidders, I placed partner with a reasonably good hand, and stretched a bit (!!!) and went 4♦ (please pick the major suit you like best, partner), LHO bid 5♦(!), partner called 5♠, and after a bit of thought RHO doubled. Pass, pass, pass. It turned out well for us because the full deal was:

North

♠ 6 5
♥ K J 10 7
♦ J 8 2
♣ A K 8 3

West

♠ A J 4 2
♥ A 2
♦ A K 4
♣ J 7 6 4

East

♠ K Q 8 7 3
♥ 9 8 6 5 4 3
♦ 5
♣ Q

South

♠ 10 9
♥ Q
♦ Q 10 9 7 6 3
♣ 10 9 5 2

+850 was of course a cold top. Again, better lucky than good!

Quote for the month: "If you're going through hell, keep going." (Winston Churchill)