

# Pomona-Covina Unit News

## October 2023

**Individual:** October 7, 10 a.m., Ontario

November 4, 10 a.m., Upland

**Unit Game:** October 21, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

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

**Club Championships:** October 10, 13

**Club Appreciation Games:** October 17, 20

The September game at the Friendship center went well, so we will be moving our monthly Unit game there on a monthly basis.

The September Individual was captured by Linda Tessier, with 67.05%. Tied for second were Kiran Kumar and Kitty moon, with Clinton Lew tying Tom Cusack for fourth place.

In the September Unit Game, Steve Mancini - Richard Parker won with 65.29%. Bill Papa – Vic Sartor took second, Gail Leroy - Stephen Dorse third, Thomas Cusack - Kitty Moon fourth, and Tim and Eileen Finlay fifth.

We have two promotions to announce this month. Richard Parker has advanced to Regional Master, and Steve Andersen is now an NABC Master. Congratulations to you both!

The “big game” list for September can only be described as insane. (See also: weird, bizarre, crazy, unbelievable, etc.) The top game was turned in by Fredy and Lulu Minter, 76.17%. Unfortunately for them, we had only 4½ tables for that game, so they don’t get their names into the ACBL Bulletin. (You need at least five full tables.) Next we have a *tie* at 72.92%, the Minters tying with Steve Andersen – Gary Atwell. Then we have Bill Papa – Vic Sartor at 67.78%. Now we find Gary and Steve again. The next three big games were all turned in by the Minters: 66.8%, 66.43%, 66.2%. Bill and Vic turned in a 65.97% effort only to finish *second*. Go figure. Finally, Gary and Steve turned in a 65.19% effort to just sneak into the list (hey, break up the Yankees) at 66.92%. The only winners not topping 65% were Vic Sartor – Mary Ann Wotring.

Here are a couple of hands I might have used last month, had I not been off galivanting in Niagara Falls (ok, ok, get that “slowly I turn” out of your system NOW).

E-W vulnerable, South is the dealer. You, West, hold

♠ AKQ65 ♥ none ♦ AK8632 ♣ 94.

The opponents are silent for a change. You open 1♠ ... or do you? With 5-6 shape and 16 HCP, all in your long suits, don’t you have enough to reverse? Well, *I* think so. And I am *sure* Eddie Kantar would have agreed. If you open 1♦, partner bids 1♠, and after you settle your tongue back where it belongs, you are off to the races. It turns out that partner has

♠ 10743 ♥ QJ5 ♦ void ♣ AK10532

and 13 tricks roll in. Can you see how to get to the 26 HCP – actually, since the ♥QJ5 are wasted, it’s effectively a 23 point deal – grand slam?

Unfortunately, our West (no names please) opened 1♠, I called 2♣ (not game forcing), the rebid was 3♦, and that pretty much made my red suit holdings suspect, so I bid 4♠. +710. At all four tables, *no one* bid even the small slam, and one declarer (no names) even contrived to lose a trick. How would *you* get there?

Our other deal comes straight from the Chamber of Horrors. This crime was perpetrated by two Very Good Players (they each play in Flight A no matter whom they partner). So it is included here not to shame them, but to give the rest of us hope: even our betters can have massive brain lapses. Both sides are vulnerable, South deals, and East-West remain silent. I'll give you both hands:

(N) ♠ K ♥ AQ109 ♦ 87 ♣ AKQ754.

(S) ♠ AQ642 ♥ 632 ♦ J953 ♣ 3.

The auction went 1♣ – 1♠; 2♥ – PASS!

I'm not sure what South was thinking, (s)he (no names!) knows all about reverses and forcing bids. The result was one of the more embarrassing bridge scores, +230.

And what was this pair's matchpoint score on this truly fine result? You guessed it: they scored a cold top, as *everyone else* was in a club partscore, +130. No justice for E-W! (Yes, I was one of the victims of this travesty. Are you surprised? I'm thinking of changing my name to "Karapet Djoulilyan.")

Quote for the month: "Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't." (Erica Jong)