

# Pomona-Covina Unit News

## September 2023

**Individual:** September 9, 10 a.m., Ontario  
October 7, 10 a.m., TBD

**Unit Game:** September 16, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

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

**Club Championships:** September 12, 15

Yes! The Friendship center is *finally* available! We will be moving our monthly Unit game there on a monthly basis. Hopefully!

The August Individual was captured by – ahem – Your Correspondent, with 59.03%. Art Weinstein tied for second with Tom Cusack, Susie Emminger came next, then Linda Tessier, and Rose Roberts tied for sixth with Steve Andersen.

And yes, the September Individual is delayed by one week. It's a holiday weekend ... and the Director isn't available on the normal day. Sigh!

In the August Unit Game, Tim and Eileen Finlay again took top honors, this time with a 62.86% game. They again edged out Fredy and Lulu Minter. In third place we find Caryn Mason – Richard Parker, followed by Mary Ann Wotring – Rosalie Roberts, then Peter Kavounas – Daniel Robinson. Kitty Moon – Kathleen Malovos took top honors in Flight C

Amazingly enough, this month we have not one, not two, not three, but *four* promotions to announce. Can't remember the last time we had *that* many. Anyway, here they are: James Zhang has begun the upward climb, and is now a Junior Master. Dan Robinson is now a Club Master, Art Weinstein is a Sectional Master, and Roger Boyar has reach Silver Life Master rank. Congratulations, all!

The top game this month was a whopper turned in by Vic Sartor – Mary Ann Wotring, 74.40%. Next in line we find that same duo at 70.32%, followed by Art Weinstein – Nancy Stebbins at 68.75%. Fourth best were Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, 67.41%, then Hanan Mogharbel – Yours Truly at 67.06%. This effort was turned in during STaC week, which earned us second overall and an impressive 7.88 silver points. The final pair topping 65% was Bill Papa – Lulu Minter at 66.67%. One other pair topped the leader board: Fredy and Lulu Minter scored 57.65%. In a cruel twist of fate, in that same game they beat out Clint Lew – Linda Tessier ... by 0.01 matchpoint. That's the absolute minimum difference, by the way. Anything less is considered a tie.

Unfortunately, I ran off for my vacation without taking my file of interesting hands with me. So I gotta improvise a bit. Here's one recent hand that turned out to be an exercise in frustration for me. I was South, with West dealing. The auction was pass-pass-pass to me. I held these cards:

♠ A42 ♥ A8 ♦ AJ10964 ♣ 103.

A perfectly respectable 1♦ opening, right? Even a die-hard Roth-Stoner would open it. BUT – I'm in fourth seat so the opponents should have some cards, since partner did not open. I will definitely not welcome competition in the majors, especially hearts. There's a special

treatment available in fourth seat, and I used it. I opened 2♦. This is *supposed* to show a *good* 6-card suit, and a non-minimum opening hand. Well, my hand *is* only 6 losers, so 2♦ it is.

The auction went pass-pass pass. OK.

But against all expectations, partner put down this dummy:

♠ 763 ♥ K543 ♦ Q ♣ AKJ97.

I dunno about you, but I would open that 14 point, 7 loser hand in any seat. 10 tricks rolled home in diamonds ... but 9 tricks are there in 3NT, so we got the zero we deserved. I asked partner why the hand wasn't opened? "Didn't like it." *De gustibus non disputatum est*, I guess.

I'll have something better for you next time. It is to be hoped!

Quote for the month: "I'm going to stop asking "How dumb can you get?" People seem to be taking it as a challenge." (seen on a T-shirt)