

Pomona-Covina Unit News

September 2025

La Fetra Games:	Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
Individual:	October 11, 10:00 a.m., Ontario
STaC:	October 7, 10, La Fetra
Club Championships:	October 14, 17, La Fetra
Club Appreciation Games:	October 7, 10, 21, 24
Unit Pairs Game:	September 20, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
	October 18, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Board Meeting:	10:15 a.m. before the game

In the August Unit Game, Fredy and Lulu Minter took top honors with 63.85%. Next in line we find Kitty Moon – Steven Tinling, Steve Andersen – Gary Atwell, Tim and Eileen Finlay, Peter Kavounas - Richard Parker, and Gloria Harrison – Nony Bernal.

In the September Individual, Judy Mogharbel won with a 65.63% effort. Finishing second was Rosalie Roberts, followed by Peter Kavounas, Tom Cusack, Yours Truly, and Gloria Harrison and Dan Robinson.

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

1	13.30	Fredy Minter
2	12.04	Lulu Minter
3	9.96	Caryn Mason
4	8.23	Patrick Finley
5	7.45	Vic Sartor
6	7.44	Gary Atwell
7	7.36	Nona Stokes
7	7.36	Ramona Hernandez
9	6.14	David Raymond
10	5.80	Steve Andersen

And at the Claremont Bridge Club:

1	2.84	Patrick Finley
2	1.70	Patrick Rogers
3	1.32	David Ochroch
4	1.30	Wendy Wanderman
4	1.30	Rose Roberts

At La Fetra, there were quite a few games over the 65% benchmark. Most of them barely cleared the bar, but hey, you don't get style points in this game. The top game was posted by Fredy and Lulu Minter: 70.31. Next was a 68.17% game by Caryn Mason – Patrick Finley, a 67.71% game by Vic Sartor and Caryn – which placed them 2nd that day! Then three by the Minters: 67.70%, 65.97%, and 65.63%. Finally we have Clint Lew – Linda Tessier at 65.42%, and Ramona Hernandez – Nona Stokes at 65.10%. A few others topped the leader board without clearing the bar: David Raymond, Helen Wang, and Mary Ann Wotring.

Over in Claremont, there were three big games: a 72.22% whopper by Patrick Finley – Patrick Rogers; 68.75% by Tom Cusack – Allen Guest; and 65.97 by Kitty Moon – Dave Ochroch.

A dozen of our members brought home an impressive 117.19 masterpoints from the Irvine Regional. The lion's share of those were pulled in by Clint Lew (33.48) and – Judy Mogharbel (21.79). Yours Truly gathered in 12.48, and Tim and Eileen Finlay rounded out the top five with 10.73 each. The best overall event performance was pulled in by a team including Clint Lew, Judy Mogharbel, Yours Truly, and a ringer from 559. In spite of my presence, we took top honors in bracket 3 of the Sunday Teams. We *almost* won our bracket on Saturday, finishing in fourth – only 4 victory points from the top. How frustrating!. One or two boards would have turned the tide. But we had some good luck on Sunday, so OK. More about that in our “hand of the week!”

Other impressive finishes were turned in by our rising star, Cici Mougharbel, who finished 4th in B in the Monday Gold Rush, and then 2nd in the charity pairs that evening. She also finished first in C in the Tuesday Open Pairs. Bring on the gold! A team including Clint, Caryn Mason, and Steve Anderson took third in the Tuesday bracketed teams (bracket 2), bumped down from 2nd by an unfortunate and somewhat doubtful procedure penalty. Tim and Eileen Finlay took 2nd in the Tuesday-Wednesday mini-Soloway KO.

We had three promotions last month. Dan Rovinson has advanced to Regional Master. Richard Parker and Duane “Woody” Woodman are now Advanced NABC Masters. Congratulations, all!

For our hand-of-the-month, I'm going to give you the final board of my team's effort in the Sunday Teams at Irvine. You are South, no one vulnerable, and find yourself holding this impressive hand:

♠ A K x x ♥ 7 2 ♦ A K Q x x ♣ A Q

Unexpectedly, partner, the dealer, opens 2♥. Well! I hope you would have visions of sugar plums, since I did. I asked about a side feature with 2NT, and got a 3♥ response. Oh well, no ♣K. I have controls up the yin-yang outside of the trump suit, so let's not fool around with Blackwood. Let's make a final effort with 5♥, asking about trump quality. AQJxxx should give 6♥ a play, so let's go for the brass ring! Partner duly called 6♥.

The opening lead was a trump, ♥7 from the table, ♥Q by third hand, and when partner ducked, I looked around for the aspirin. Good trumps and she *ducks*?

It turned out to be a not-so-high percentage slam. Here was her hand:

♠ 8 6 5 ♥ A J 8 6 5 4 ♦ J 9 6 3 ♣ void.

Not a textbook 2♥ opening by most people over the age of 25! Partner must have hired RR's Guardian Angel, because she found her LHO with ♥KQ10 and the slam rolled home for an 11 IMP gain! Good thing that was the last board of the day!

If my calculations are correct, then the chances of that specific trump holding are ($\frac{3}{5} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{3}$) x ($\frac{1}{2} \times 34\%$) (roughly). Around 1.7%! Eeek! Of course, ♥KQx (any of the three small cards) in RHO's hand will also allow the slam to come home, so it's a 5.1% contract. Well, after all the bad luck we ran into the day before, I guess maybe we got paid back a bit!

If you'd like to see how I arrived at that calculation, see after Hand 5 of the Problem Solver's Panel. I could be wrong! It does happen.

Quote for the month: “Confession is good for the soul only in the sense that a tweed coat is good for dandruff.” (Peter de Vries)

Explanation of the odds on that *awful* slam from the Unit 551 “Hand of the Month”

First, you need trumps to be 3-2. That’s about 34%. You also need the three card holding to be on your right, a 50% shot ($\frac{1}{2}$). Those three cards must include KQ. Let’s look at just KQ10 for now. In the three card holding, one of the cards must be the K, Q, or 10 – that’s 3 choices out of 5 ($\frac{3}{5}$). The next card must be one of the remaining two honors, or 2 out of 4 ($\frac{1}{2}$). The last card must be the remaining honor, one chance in three ($\frac{1}{3}$). So you get this result: $(\frac{3}{5} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{3}) \times (\frac{1}{2} \times 34)\% = 1.7\%$. Since the 10 can be replaced by either of the other two missing spot cards, you can triple the odds to 5.1%. Lovely! If I’ve gone wrong somewhere, I’d love to hear about it. No, really.