

Pomona-Covina Unit News

Individual: April 1, 10 a.m., Ontario

May 6, 10 a.m., TBD

Unit Game: April 15, 11:00 a.m., **Ontario**

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

Longest Day: Friday, June 23, La Fetra

NO, the location of this month's Unit game is *not* a misprint! We had planned on holding the game at the Knights of Columbus in Glendora, since we expect a pretty good turnout: we are presenting the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards before the game. But, *after* I sent out the notices to the award winners, I learned that the Knights had already rented out the hall to someone else. Now, we have a standing reservation for the third Saturday of each month, but to be totally fair, we also get a bargain rental rate, so we have to yield when they get a better offer. So we were faced with several distasteful choices. I polled the Board of Directors and some of the members, and the consensus was a combination of "I don't care" and the Ontario site. We'll be holding the game in the Friendship Center at Inland Christian Home, 1950 S. Mountain Avenue, Ontario. I'll be posting a map on our Unit web site as soon as I can, because the Friendship Center can be tricky to locate if you don't come in through the "right" entrance.

Yes, indeed, we will be hosting a session in support of The Longest Day this year. We note that we are the **ONLY** unit in District 23 that has supported this event *every year*, with the exception of the year La Fetra and the K of C (our Unit game site) was closed during the pandemic year of 2020. The game pays extra master points (black ones, of course) so we'll charge an extra buck for the entry fee. All the proceeds go towards the Alzheimer's Association. If you can't make the game, you can donate online at <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>, which at press time was not yet working (but I'm on it!), or get a check to one of your Unit officials.

As mentioned above, at our Unit game this month, we'll be handing out the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards. Don't know if you won your bracket? Well, if you *did*, you've probably heard from me about it via email or snail-mail (if I don't have your email address). Want to come play in the game, too, but no partner? Give us a call, we ought to be able to find someone for you. Sorry: Zia, Jeff, Eric, and *that* crowd aren't available.

In the March Individual, Rosalie Roberts led the field with 71.88%. Not bad! Clint Lew and Art Weinstein tied for second, and Linda Tessier came in fourth to round out the leader board.

Only two big games turned in last month, but one was a monster. Fredy Minter – Roger Boyar turned in a 74.76% effort; and Fredy and Lulu Minter had a 67.8% game. Other winners: Vic Sartor, Mary Ann Wotring, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Dan Robinson, Art Weinstein, Caryn Mason, Bill Papa, Marjorie Preston, and Kathy Malovos.

In the March Unit Game, Vic Sartor – Mary Ann Wotring took the top spot with 62.51%. Close behind were Fredy Minter – Amr Elghamry, then Tim and Eileen Finlay, and finally Clint Lew – Linda Tessier.

We are experimenting with a new venue for the Unit games, as you are no doubt aware. Be sure to let us know which venue you prefer – the K of C, the Friendship Center, or the Flying House. Let us know even if you have no particular preference. All three sites have their advantages ... and disadvantages.

Speaking of the 2022 masterpoint awards, quite a few of our players cracked the District top 10. Two players even topped the list in their bracket! Richard Parker topped all others (in his bracket) in the Mini-McKenney race, and ditto Maria Marvosh in the Ace of Clubs race. Great work, you two. Other Unit members cracking the District Top 10: Maria Marvosh, Caryn Mason, Steve Andersen, and Patrick Finley (Mini-McKenney); and in the Ace of Clubs race, Steve Andersen, Sofi Kasubhai, and Patrick Finley.

Back to the ole “no rank advancements this month.” Oh well.

And, some good news! I must have missed an earlier announcement, but apparently the ACBL is allowing each club to run 8 regular, and 2 upgraded, championship games (per scheduled session) again this year! We’ve only run one so far, the last week of March. I’ll try to figure out the best weeks to hold these games. Note, I have to work around Regionals, STaCs, and holidays, so fitting these beasts in will be a bit of a challenge! I will post the schedule on our Unit web site ... start looking for it around the end of this month. However, since the Individual game is only held once each month, we only get one regular club championship for the entire year.

Here’s another hand that makes you wonder just *why* you keep playing this crazy game. Yes, the bridge gods have been unfriendly of late. At unfavorable vulnerability, RHO deals and opens 2♦. You, West, holding:

♠ 105 ♥ AJ5432 ♦ A98 ♣ 102

decide the hearts are a little too ratty to butt in, so you pass. LHO also passes, and partner jumps to 3♠. Well! After deducting three points for the “borrowed King,” you still decide this is worth a shot at game, so you go 4♠. North doubles, and happens next shouldn’t happen to a dog, but it happened to you. You’ll have to see the full deal before I describe the play:

	North	
	♠ A 9 6 4 3	
	♥ none	
	♦ 7 2	
	♣ K Q 9 8 7 5	
West		East
♠ 10 5		♠ K Q J 8 7 5
♥ A J 5 4 3 2		♥ K Q 6
♦ A 9 8		♦ Q 5
♣ 10 2		♣ J 3
	South	
	♠ none	
	♥ 10 9 8 7	
	♦ K J 10 6 4 3	
	♣ A 6 4	

OK, maybe East was a tad light for the jump, but not seriously so, even discounting the ♦Q. And not everyone opens 2♦ with 4 reasonable hearts on the side. Ready for the holocaust?

The opening lead is the ♥10. You play low, of course, and North ruffs. Next comes ♣K, ♣Q overtaken by the Ace, ♥9 ruffed by North, and a diamond to your Ace. You’ve lost four tricks, and you still have to lose the trump Ace and a diamond, down 3, -800 and a cold zero (no

one else bid 4♠). As a matter of fact, at 7 tables, not one contract was made, not even 4♥ (down 1). Sheesh!

Quote for the month: “The people to fear are not those who disagree with you, but those who disagree with you and are too cowardly to let you know.” (Napoleon Bonaparte)