

# Pomona-Covina Unit News

## April 2024

**La Fetra Games:** Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45

**Individual:** April 13, 10 a.m., Ontario

May 4, 10 a.m., TBD

**Unit Game:** April 20, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

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

We must start off with some sad news. Long time attendee at La Fetra, Paul Chrisney, passed away on the evening of March 24, from chronic liver failure. Paul would have been the first – maybe the second – to admit he wasn't the strongest player at the club, but his enthusiasm for the game was undiminished by that minor problem. As of this writing, services are still being arranged; get in touch with one of your Board members to find out the details. I'll send out a Bridge Alert when details are known, of course.

Most of you know already, but the Arcadia Bridge Center is closing down. Mojo is going to pick up some of the slack, but any players who live closer to Glendora than to Pasadena and want to join us will be more than welcome.

We will be presenting the 2023 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards during our April Unit game. If you will be receiving one of these awards, you will have been notified by the time this issue of the SCBN goes to press. Ahem.

The March Individual was captured by Julianne Curry, with 67.71%. In second we find Clinton Lew; Art Weinstein tied Roger Boyar for third; then Nancy Stebbins, Karen McCarthy, Thomas Cusack, and Kiran Kumar.

In the March Unit Game, somehow Judy Mogharbel dragged Yours Truly into the top spot, with a 59.26% game. Obviously, the game was pretty competitive! In second were Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, followed by Fredy Minter – Amr Elghamry, then Mary Ann Wotring – Steve Mancini and Stephen Andersen – Peter Kavounas.

There were two rank advancements this month. Benjamin Boye has moved up to Club Master, and Peter Kavounas is now a Regional Master.

There were only two “big games” last month. With the increased attendance lately, the games seem to be much more competitive. Anyway, the top game, 68.23%, was turned in by Caryn Mason – Mary Ann Wotring. The other was a 66.15% effort by Fredy and Lulu Minter. Others turning in a first place performance: Steve Andersen, Roger Boyar, Vic Sartor, Eddie Rose, Gary Atwell, Steve Mancini, and Bill Papa.

While there were a number of – ahem – interesting hands last month, I didn't really note any of them down. (It was *that* kind of month, unfortunately.)

So here's a few oddities from the past. Exhibit #1:

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

At my table (I was East) it went 1♠ – 2♣; 3♦ – 4♠. We were not playing splinters, nor was 2♣ game forcing. IMO, West needs to open 1♦, LHO will probably bid 1♥, East should double, West bids 3♠ and East-West will almost certainly get to slam. But everyone was in 4♠. Twelve tricks are easy on a “Declarer Reversal.” Go figure.

Exhibit #2:

♠ K  
 ♥ A Q 10 9  
 ♦ 8 7  
 ♣ A K Q 7 5 4  
 ♠ 8 5              ♠ J 10 9 7 3  
 ♥ K J 5 4        ♥ 8 7  
 ♦ K 10 4 2      ♦ A Q 6  
 ♣ J 10 9         ♣ 8 6  
 ♠ A Q 6 4 2  
 ♥ 6 3 2  
 ♦ J 9 5 3  
 ♣ 3

The results were +230 (once) and three +130s. Meanwhile it’s easy to make all 13 tricks in hearts. Weird.

The +230 was turned in at my table – I was East, of course. The auction was ... well let’s be polite and say it was not best. North opened 1♣, South called 1♠, and North reversed into 2♥. Pass, pass, pass! Aie, Chihuahua! South was an expert-level player, he just decided to “take a view,” and of course my side took gas because of it. Go figure. It would not have been so painful, had North-South gotten to the slam or even to game, given the sub-optimal results at the other tables.

Wouldn’t 2♠ be forcing? Or, if not, then maybe Ingberman (a.k.a. a version of Lebensohl) be useful here? Arrgh, is all I can say.

Quote for the month: “I am mortified to be told that, in the United States of America, the sale of a book can become a subject of inquiry, and of criminal inquiry too.” (Thomas Jefferson)