

# Pomona-Covina Unit News

## January 2024

**Individual:** January 6, 10 a.m., Ontario

February 3, 10 a.m., TBD

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

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

The December Individual was captured by Gary Atwell, with 68.18% In second we find, Your Truly, followed by Dale Quasny, Linda Tessier, and Tom Cusack.

In the December Unit Game, Fredy Minter – Amr Elghamry took top honors again, with a 66.20% effort. In second were Roger Boyar – Yours Truly , followed by Peter Kavounas – Daniel Robinson, who tied with Vic Sartor – Bill Papa.

We have only one promotion to announce again this month. Baoding Chen is now a Junior Master.

There were only three big games in December – and one of those was only good for second place! The top score was turned in by Caryn Mason – Mary Ann Wotring, 67.36%. Fredy Minter and Roger Boyar turned in the other two big scores, 65.48% and 65.28%. That last score was a second-place finish.

Other winners in December were Lulu Minter, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Art Weinstein, Karen McCarthy, and Karen Olin.

Our Unit did fairly well at the Palm Springs Regional. 11 players brought home a total of 84.38 masterpoints. Topping the list is Mary Ann Wotring, with 16.04. Vic Sartor and Caryn Mason each brought home 15.25. Art Weinstein earned 5.69, and Steve Andersen rounded out the top five with 5.27. Where did Yore Correspondent wind up? Next question, please!

For this month's interesting hand, I'm going to blow my own horn. Well, why not, I write this silly column. You want to see your name here, *you* send me a hand. This is one of those rare cases where I "took a view" and it actually worked out.

Both sides vulnerable, South deals. This hand came up in a bracketed teams event. You, South, picked up

♠ Axx ♥ xxx ♦ AKQxx ♣ Qx

OK, you have 15 HCP. Walter the Walrus opens 1NT. Do you?

I hope not. With 13 of your 15 points in two suits, and a doubleton Queen in the bargain, let's take a view and open 1♦.

So that's what I did, everyone passed, and I proceeded to make exactly 7 tricks. Dummy came down with

♠ xxx ♥ Jxx ♦ xx ♣ Kxxxx.

The opening lead was the ♣A, so it looks like I should get a club trick. Nope. RHO had a singleton and ruffed the club continuation! Dummy is somewhat short of entries, so the ♣K withered on the vine.

And what happened at the other table? South opened 1NT, and took only 4 tricks, -300. That's 9 IMPs to the good guys!

Sometimes, you just *have* to “break the rules” and use some judgement. It helps morale when you turn out to have been right. (Said he, with a sigh of relief.)

The opponents didn't balance because they both had flat hands with 10 or 11 HCP and no long suit. It was the next-to-last board of a very long day, so I did not look to see if E-W could actually make anything.

Quote for the month: “Musical – a series of catastrophes ending with a floor show.” (Oscar Levant)