

Pomona-Covina Unit News

March 2024

Individual: March 2, 10 a.m., Ontario
April 13, 10 a.m., TBD

Unit Game: March 16, 11:00 a.m., Ontario

STaC: March 19 and 22

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

Club Championships: March 26 and 29, La Fetra

The February Individual was captured by Clint Lew, with 66.67%. In second we find Steve Mancini, then Linda Tessier, Kiran Kumar, and Art Weinstein tying Nancy Stebbins for the fifth spot.

In the February Unit Game, Tim and Eileen Finlay took top honors, with a 60.19% effort. In second were Kitty Moon – Tom Cusack, followed by Judy Mogharbel – Kiran Kumar, with Caryn Mason – Richard Parker tying Dan Robinson – Julianne Curry for the final spot on the leader board.

There were no rank promotions this month.

The big games list for last month was headed by Fredy and Lulu Minter, with a whopping 71.35% game. Next in line – a rare occurrence indeed – was the 67.02% game turned in by Judy Mogharbel and Yours Truly. Then we find the Minters again, with two 66.67% games, and Nona Stokes – Ramona Hernandez, 66.55%. The only section leaders not to break 65% (but they DID win!) were Tim and Eileen Finlay.

Something a little different this month, for our interesting (?) hand. We all know that judgement is a big part of bidding, right? Here's a case where one player took the right view and got to the cold slam, while no one else – even the very, very good pairs – did not. I'll show you the E-W hands.

South deals, no one is vulnerable:

West: ♠ 5 ♥ A9852 ♦ 93 ♣ AJ854

East: ♠ AKQJ6 ♥ QJ5 ♦ AK76 ♣ 7

The opponents are silent, so after three passes, you, East, have your first decision to make. You have a 4-loser hand. Do you open 2♣? Two-suited hands can be difficult to describe after a 2♣ opening, so you settle for 1♠ (and hope partner does not pass).

Now over to partner. Normally, a 2/1 response – even playing Standard, and especially by a passed hand in any system – would show around 11 HCP, right? Maybe a shapely 10 or a poor 12. Partner looked at that 5-5-2-1 shape and went 2♥.

Cowabunga, Buffalo Bob! With controls in all the unbid suits, great support for partner's known five-card suit, and figuring 11 over there, you launch into RKC Blackwood. Hearing about the two key cards, you settle for 6♥. The trump King is onside, so 13 tricks are there. Partner elected not to ruff a club in dummy, so +980. Results at the other tables were +510, +490, +460, and +450. (Don't ask me – I just report 'em, I don't explain 'em.) Only one pair

elected to try for that golden pairs overtrick by ruffing a club, and since neither opponent had a singleton club, 13 tricks. (Trumps were 3-2, by the way.)

One has to wonder: the West hand does evaluate to 11 *total* points when you add one for each of the nice five-card suits. In hearts, the East hand reevaluates to 22. Why didn't anyone else get to the slam? As the cards lie, 6♠ also makes, but most people will eschew a 5-1 fit when there is a 5-3 fit available. True, that spade suit in the East hand does resemble a six-carder ...

Quote for the month: "Progress always involves risk; you can't steal second base and keep your foot on first." (Frederick Wilcox)