Pomona-Covina Unit News

November 2026

La Fetra Games: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
Claremont Bridge Club: Thursdays 9:30
Unit Pairs Game: November 21, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Individual: December 4, 10:00 a.m., Ontario
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

In the October Unit game, Lulu Minter – Amr Elghamry took the top spot with 62.92%. They edged out Mary Ann Wotring – Vic Sartor by just ½ matchpoint. In third we find Kiran Kumar – Avice Osmundson, followed by Ramona Hernandez – Nona Stokes, and then Roger Boyar – Patrick Finley.

Our first-of-its kind (possibly the last – who knows?) Halloween game, Caryn Mason – Patrick Finley took first with 61.48%. In second were Judy Mogharbel – Joe Maresh, then Dan Robinson – Cece Mogharbel, Mary Ann Wotring – Kiran Kumar, and Sofi Kasubhai – Art Weinstein. We had 6¼ tables, so I just kibitzed – and I will tell you, it was about as enjoyable as playing! Some of the bidding I saw – well, just say it wasn't entirely mainstream.

The game featured not only a costume competition, but an off-the-wall contest suiting my somewhat unhinged mind. I'm a fan of wild comedies, so I made a list of outrageously funny lines and challenged the players to identify both the movie, and the speakers (either role or actor would do). I guess it was kind of tough, because only 5 people submitted entries – and there were prizes for the top 3! For those who entered and would like the answers, they are posted on our web site.

Here are two of my favorites, along with the answers, just to show you how my mind works – or doesn't work, sometimes:

"Butler gone … but *pockets* still there?" From *Murder by Death*, spoken by Sydney Wang (Peter Sellers).

"If I were joking, I'd say 'What do you do with an elephant with three balls?' (shrug) 'You walk him, and pitch to the rhino.'" From *Hot Shots*, Ramada Thompson/Valerio Golino and Topper Harley/Charlie Sheen.

The November Individual was not held, due to lack of attendance. Attendance at this fun game has been rather poor lately. If I can't get enough to play next month, I will probably not renew the sanction. So if you enjoy this outing … c'mon and play!

Thanks again to Patrick Finley, for collating the masterpoint statistics for October.

1	20.12	Lulu Minter
2	19.99	Caryn Mason
3	19.17	Patrick Finley
4	15.70	Fredy Minter
5	13.31	Vic Sartor
6	8.59	Steve Andersen
7	7.91	Mary Ann Wotring
8	7.84	Peter Kavounas
9	7.81	Clint Lew

10 7.31 Linda Tessier

Totals were higher than normal because of all the special games in October, paying extra points.

And at the Claremont Bridge Club:

1	2.64	David Ochroch
1	2.64	Duane Woodman
3	2.56	Patrick Finley
3	2.56	Steve Mancini
5	173	Todd Shimoda
5	1.00	Olivia Esquibel

At La Fetra, we had four scores were over the magic 65% benchmark. The best was a monstrous 78.0% game by whopper by Fredy and Lulu Minter. They also had a 73.33%-er and a 65.93%er. The other big game was by Caryn Mason – Patric Finley, 67.92%, finishing second that day to you-know-who. Mary Ann Wotring – Steve Anderson, and Caron Mason – Vic Sartor were also winners, although not topping the magic 65%.

Over in Claremont, three of the five winners were over 65%: Steve Mancini – Patrick Finley scored 68.06% and also 67.46%.. Duane Woodson – David Ochroch scored 65.80%. The other winners were Todd – Shimoda – Olivia Esquibel, and Art Weinstein – Sophie Kasubhai.

There were two promotions this month. Peter Kavounas has become a Life Master … and Yours Truly is now a Ruby Life Master. I'd say it's more a triumph of persistence over ability, myself. And I played with some pretty good partners.

Only a few of us traveled to Ventura for the Halloween regional. Six players brought home a total of 43.85 masterpoints. The bulk of this was earned by Stepehen Andersen, who earned 27.91 gold points with two firsts and a third in bracketed teams events. Peter Kavounas brought home 7.63 with a win in bracketed teams. The rest of us brought home the rest, a few dribs and drabs of red points. Sigh.

However, to show you that you can still have fun at this game, even while getting the stuffing knocked out of you, here's an amusing incident from that Regional. Partner opened 1♣, I responded 1♦. I don't recall exactly what the final contract was, but I believe it was some number of notrump. I faced my dummy, and as my ♦98764 hit the table, partner gave me the stink-eye. I said, deadpan, "What? It's a solid suit. Just missing the top five!" RHO almost fell off his chair laughing, and even the very sober LHO gave a smile.

Seven of us traveled to Long Beach for their annual Sectional. Top performer was Amr Elgamry, whose team finished 2nd overall in the Open Swiss and gathered 9.08 silver points. The team of Steve Andersen, Peter Kavounas, Judy Mogharbel, and Yours Truly managed 5th in B (10th overall, which didn't pay) to bring home 2.69. Cece Mougharbel had a very respectable 56.7% in the open pairs to earn 2.29. And Art Weinstein – Carl Silsbee, while not placing overall, did earn 0.48 each.

Our hand-of-the-month comes from the Vincent Price School of Horror. North deals, N-S are vulnerable, and you hold:

♠Q 8 4 ♥J 9 8 6 3 2 ♦4 3 ♣7 2

You are treated (?) to the following auction:

North	East	South	West
1♥	pass	1♠	X
pass	???		

Absolutely fabulous. You are 2-2 in partner's suits with your whopping 3HCP, all in *their* suits. What, oh what, do you do now?

I elected to bid 2♣ – not because it was the stronger (!?) one, but because it was the lower ranking one. South competed to 2♠, and West called 3♣. Oh, joyous day. Hopefully I can get out of this one alive.

3♣ turned out to be a make – Bridge Composer confirms that it is makeable, double-dummy – because the full hand was

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

West
♠ A 7 2
♥ void
♦ A K Q 6 5
♣ A Q 10 8 5

East
♠ Q 8 4
♥ J 9 8 6 3 2
♦ 4 3
♣ 7 2

South
♠ K J 10 9 6 3
♥ 10 7
♦ J 9 2
♣ K 6

Where North found that opening bid is unknown. It *is* a 7 loser hand, but ick! +110 turned out to be a fine score – one other pair was +130 on our cards, the only ones to top us. Other scores ranged from +100 N-S to +90 E-W. According to that optimistic Bridge Composer, the par contract is 2NT by EW, +120, although how you get there is left as an exercise for the Student. We can also make 3♦, and (!) 2♥. Right.

Quotes for the month:

We just had the bi-annual midterms, so you get a bonus Quote-for-the-Month:

"If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal." (Emma Goldman)

"Almost anything you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it." (Mohandas K Ghandi)