

Pomona-Covina Unit News

September 2026

La Fetra Games:	Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:45
NO GAME	Friday, October 9
Claremont Bridge Club:	Thursdays 9:30
Unit Pairs Game:	September 19, 11:00 a.m., Ontario
Club Championships:	September 15, 18, 8:45 a.m., La Fetra
Club Appreciation Games:	October 6, 9, 20, 23, La Fetra
Individual:	October 3, 10:00 a.m., Ontario
STaC:	October 20, 23, La Fetra
Unit Board Meeting:	10:15 a.m. before the game

There will not be a game held on Friday, October 9, because of the Riverside Sectional being held on that day. Quite a few of us plan to be there. If enough of you still want to have a game on that day – and can find someone to run it! – fine with me, just let me know in enough time to make arrangements. They ran a nice tournament in Riverside last year, *almost* as nice as ours!

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

1	14.87	Fredy Minter
2	13.56	Lulu Minter
3	11.86	Caryn Mason
4	10.57	Vic Sartor
5	7.24	Richard Parker
6	6.87	Patrick Finley
7	6.70	Mary Ann Wotring
8	6.16	Clint Lew
9	5.76	Peter Kavounas
10	4.59	Linda Tessier

And at the Claremont Bridge Club:

1	2.58	Patrick Finley
1	2.58	Caryn Mason
3	0.77	David Ochroch
3	0.77	Duane Woodman
5	0.72	Aeshna Mathur
5	0.72	Teresa Wray

At La Fetra, we only had two scores were over the magic 65% benchmark. The best was by Fredy and Lulu Miner: 70.42%. The other was a quite respectable 67.47% game by Caryn Mason – Patrick Finley. Other winners not topping 65%: Vic Sartor – Caryn Mason, Clint Lew – Kiran Kumar, and Richard Parker – David Raymond.

Over in Claremont, all four sessions were captured by Patrick Finley – Caryn Mason, three of them big games: 77.78%, 73.61%, 67.46%. Remember the old baseball cry “break up the Yankees?” Sigh! Well, they *are* pretty good at this silly game.

Three promotions this month: Todd Shimoda is now a Junior Master, Vic Sartor has reached the exalted heights of Sapphire Life Master ... and as detailed below, Kurt Triesleemann has earned his Gold Card (Life Master).

A baker's dozen players from our Unit brought home a total of 108.70 masterpoints, mostly gold, from the Irvine Regional. The best news: Kurt Triesleemann earned enough gold in the Monday bracketed teams to get to Life Master! Nice going, Kurt. The top five masterpoint earners:

Clint Lew	18.27
Steve Andersen	17.55
Amr Elghamry	17.17
Peter Kavounas	11.05
Judy Mogharbel	8.93
Yours Truly	8.93

The best finishes: the team of Kurt, Yours Truly, Steve, and Judy, finished 2nd in the Monday teams to get Kurt his gold. Peter finished 1st in a bracketed teams; Clint finished 2nd in a bracketed teams; and Cece Mougharbel finished 2nd in a bracketed pairs, but also brought home a couple of T-shirts by getting section tops.

I haven't been playing a lot lately – too many medical issues – so I don't really have a good hand for your this month. Instead, I'm going to give you a few auctions from the recent Irvine Regional, where I absolutely tortured my partner, getting a “deer in the headlights” look after one of my BOONs (that's a Bid Out Of Nowhere, by the way).

First hand (spots approximate): I held, in fourth seat, this nice hand, both vulnerable. IMP scoring, by the way.

♠ A J 6 ♥ K J 9 4 ♦ K J 10 3 ♣ 6.

This was the auction:

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>Torturer (me)</u>
1♣	1♥	1NT	???

Well, sport, your hand evaluates to 16 points with hearts being trumps, and partner overcalled red. It's perhaps a bit aggressive, but red games at IMPs are worth trying if you have a 1/3 (roughly) chance at it. So, I called 4♥. This got doubled, and became the final contract. Making 4, +790 and a nice 12 IMP gain. The look on partner's face was priceless – and she nearly fell out of her chair!

Next day, again at IMPs, we had an interesting auction, with me holding this hand (again, spots approximate):

♠ Q 6 ♥ K J 8 5 4 ♦ 10 4 ♣ K Q 6 4.

<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>Torturer (me)</u>	<u>LHO</u>
1♠	X	1NT	pass
2♣	pass	3♣	pass
3♥	pass	???	

You probably do not agree with my bidding, but I thought (at red) that 2♥ over the X was slightly aggressive, so a slightly conservative 1NT it was. It seemed natural to raise partner's clubs, since how many hearts could she hold? Her (same partner I was victimizing the day before) 3♥ was clearly asking for help in diamonds, aiming at the magic 3NT. 10-4 didn't look like enough help there, so I figured, hmm, I figured, she probably has 3 hearts, so I raised to 4♥. Again, deer in the headlights, but she figured it out and passed. (I figured if she had only honor-doubleton in hearts, I could stand 5♣). Making 5! 3NT does not play well, partner had the bare ♦A. +650 and a nice 11 IMP gain.

Too bad we finished out of the money in both events. Win some, lose some.

Quote for the month: “The remarkable thing about a waltzing bear is not how gracefully it waltzes, but that it waltzes at all.” (Mark Twain)