



CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIOSHIPS and  
INTERNATIONAL FUND REGIONAL  
DELTA BURNABY (MARRIOTT) HOTEL  
MAY 4 to May 12 2019

Issue 6      Saturday      May 10 2019      Publisher: Eugene Chan

**CNTC Winners (L'Ecuyer 241 vs Gartaganis 169).**

**CSTC Winners (Hanna 118 vs Andrews 116).**

**CMTC Semi Finals      COPC Qualifying**

**Special feature: Jim Donaldson**



CNTC Gold Medallists: Nicholas L'Ecuyer, Kamel Fergani, Frederic Pollack, Zygmunt Marcinski, Marc Andre Fourcaudot



CSTC Gold Medallists: Nader Hanna, Martin Kirr, John Rayner, John Carruthers

### **The 44th WBF (Sept. 14-28, 2019) World Bridge Team Championships**

The World Bridge Team Championships includes the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, D'Orsi Senior Bowl, Mixed National Teams, and the World Transnational Open Teams. It takes place at the Wuhan International Convention Center, Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

Canada will play off against Mexico to represent WBF Zone 2 in China. However, the Mexican Bridge Federation has informed the CBF that Mexico is only sending their Women's team to the Zone 2 play-off scheduled for June 29-30 in Toronto. Hence winners of the CNTC, CSTC, and CMTC advance directly to Wuhan, China in September.

The 12th World Transnational Open Teams is open to all CBF members and teams may consist of players from more than one country.

### **Canadian Open Pairs Championship Jim Donaldson Trophy**

COPC winners get their names inscribed on the Jim Donaldson Trophy, and also win \$1500. Second place gets \$750.

Who was Jim Donaldson?  
See inside for BC's biggest bridge secret.



Donaldson C.O.P.C.

# Who was Jim Donaldson?

Most of the current generation of BC players have never heard of Jim Donaldson or if they have heard the name, know very little about him. He is indeed, BC's best kept bridge secret.

## From Allan Graves:

Jimmy was as fine a player as ever came out of Western Canada. He was ahead of his time in every aspect of the game, including the all important one of being a great partner and team mate.

I do not have enough good things to say about him. I was able to play with him as my partner for about a year and learned a lot. He loved the game and always had time for everyone. I miss him still.

## From Joel Martineau:

In 1970 the bridge bug had bitten me. Fortunately, three members of the Vancouver bridge community asked me to join them in renting a house near City Hall. Roland Divers would leave early to the bank where he worked; Martin Henniger would head off to his drapery company; Jimmy Donaldson would sleep until noon following his graveyard shift at a pulp mill in Squamish.

I made sure I returned home about the time Jimmy had his first of several mugs of instant coffee. He would sprawl on the couch and answer my endless questions. He was my first great mentor. How so?

Jimmy was a patient, gentle man. He treated every question respectfully. At the time he was developing the Dogwood Diamond, a system that anticipated many of the relay systems, prioritizing pattern rather than points. As I asked neophyte questions his replies taught me to picture the shape of partner's hand. He taught me to "bid out my pattern", how to identify a fragment in partner's hand and infinitely more.

I loved that man. One goal in writing Hand of the Week was to commemorate some of our greats and I made sure to include a couple of Jimmy anecdotes.

## From the Publisher:

I played bridge for many years with John Berry, a Commonwealth Games bronze medallist representing Canada in lawn bowling. John has passed on many years ago. Whenever we played together, John insisted on using Donaldson Over No Trump. Interestingly, John did not play transfers, preferring 2 Way Stayman instead.

I started to play a lot of duplicate in the early 80's, shortly after Donaldson died. I knew the name but not much else. In preparing for this issue, I spoke to many veteran bridge A listers, who echoed great reverence for Jimmy Donaldson. He belongs in the Canadian Bridge Hall of Fame.

Eugene Chan, Publisher

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Cartoon courtesy of Jude Goodwin



# JAMES “JIMMY” DONALDSON

By Gary Harper

Although Jimmy passed 35 years ago, ripples of his bridge brilliance remain. In many ways, he defined the Vancouver bridge during the 60's and 70's. Allan Graves ascended to stardom. Bruce Ferguson took an already excellent game to the next level. Present day veterans such as Aidan Ballantyne, Laurence Betts, Mike Wilson, Mike Dimich, and Nick Stock emerged. Many others were fortunate to be able to learn the game in an environment fostered by Jimmy's passion and insight. His premature passing from a brain tumour in the early 1980's left the local scene without its leading light.

His legacy stems not from his victories (though he had many, winning the inaugural NABC Swiss Teams and representing Canada twice). Nor will it be measured by his masterpoints (he had thousands). Rather, it lies on his impact on the local bridge community and beyond.

He brought many qualities to the “table”. Firstly, he was a technician and theorist who saw and played the game at a different level than most. Allan Graves stated “he was undoubtedly one of the top 10 Canadian talents of all time.” Laurence Betts described him as having “the most inventive and curious bridge mind of all the players” he had encountered. He was the master of unorthodox strokes of brilliance and enjoyed toying with bidding systems. He developed “Donaldson” over 1NT and the Dogwood Diamond. He was a purist who would applaud a good play, even one at his expense. When a lesser opponent made a wacky play that worked, he would inquire into their thought process with genuine curiosity.

His comportment as a partner also contributed to his success. Long time partner, Paul Hagen: “Jimmy was THE best partner anyone could have. You could make the worst mistake, and he always turned it around by saying, “I should have done this to make it easier for you. Sorry.” He got the absolute best out of his partners by being a great cheer leader. You felt good and played your best. You weren't thinking about your mistake.”

He was a mentor. Joel Martineau considers Jimmy “my first mentor and my best mentor”. Bruce Ferguson credits Jimmy with teaching him “everything I learned about bridge”. Jimmy had an ability to synthesize solid fundamentals into easy to remember “rules”. “If you have to let the opponents in, do it at trick two.” “ Ask yourself what would the opponents need to hold for you to make the hand?”

One of Jimmy's lesser known accomplishments could have been taken from the pages of Pygmalion. For several years he roomed with Jim Andrews (aka “The Rabbit”). One of the bridge scene's more memorable characters, The Rabbit's approach to bridge reflected his flamboyant lifestyle and poker background. He compensated for a lack of science and mathematics with nerve and table feel. Over the years, Jimmy was able to transform the Rabbit into a (somewhat) orthodox bidder.

In a day before social media and Bridge Base Online, the Blue Boy and Devonshire pubs were a smokey classroom where hands were dissected and bidding debated over a pint (or two). While many sought out only opinions and results of top players, Jimmy would facilitate the discussion so that everyone, veterans, newbies, experts, and card pushers; were included. His passion for exploring “what was right” rather than “who was right”, helped to create a rich learning environment. Jimmy had time for everyone and would play with almost anyone once, especially if they had interesting ideas about the game.

In an era of nicknames related to professional wrestling (Dennis Dohl will forever be “The Brute”), gentlemanly Jimmy was given the antithetical nickname of “Dr. Death”. Perhaps quite apt since many an opponent's good round died at his table.

Top professionals, leading local players, and just “regular players”, all benefitted from his insight and love of the game.

Thanks, Jimmy.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAMS FLT A  
FINAL**

	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	Total
<b>L'Ecuyer</b>	44	32	51	24	46	13	31		<b>241</b>
<b>Gartaganis</b>	34	31	13	26	30	12	23	WD	<b>169</b>

**CANADIAN SENIOR TEAMS  
FINAL**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
<b>Hanna</b>	47	55	15	1	<b>118</b>
<b>Andrews</b>	32	24	26	34	<b>116</b>

**CANADIAN MIXED TEAMS**

*MAY 10th*

**ROUND ROBIN DAY 2**

	Rank	Total	Adj.	Rnd 08		Rnd 09		Rnd 10		Rnd 11		Rnd 12		Rnd 13	
				vs	VP										
<b>81</b>	<b>T. Anderson</b>	7	106.70		Bye	10.00	92	12.05	90	13.45	88	5.61	86		84
<b>82</b>	<b>Qi</b>	13	71.13		83	9.56	87	6.88	91	9.56	Bye	10.00	90		86
<b>83</b>	<b>Su</b>	2	138.08		82	10.44	85	6.22	89	12.05	93	15.23	92		88
<b>84</b>	<b>Turner</b>	12	89.83		85	12.05	89	10.86	93	5.91	92	2.50	88		81
<b>85</b>	<b>A. Anderson</b>	1	138.50		84	7.95	83	13.78	87	10.86	91	15.23	Bye		90
<b>86</b>	<b>Demme</b>	10	96.01		87	14.09	91	3.77	Bye	10.00	90	11.27	81		82
<b>87</b>	<b>Roche</b>	11	92.30		86	5.91	82	13.12	85	9.14	89	8.73	93		92
<b>88</b>	<b>Chen</b>	9	103.34		89	5.61	93	12.42	92	5.04	81	14.39	84		83
<b>89</b>	<b>Smith</b>	6	110.70		88	14.39	84	9.14	83	7.95	87	11.27	91		Bye
<b>90</b>	<b>Blank</b>	4	121.69		91	11.67	Bye	10.00	81	6.55	86	8.73	82		85
<b>91</b>	<b>Burns</b>	5	119.76		90	8.33	86	16.23	82	10.44	85	4.77	89		93
<b>92</b>	<b>Fraser</b>	3	136.32		93	14.09	81	7.95	88	14.96	84	17.50	83		87
<b>93</b>	<b>Stark</b>	8	103.64		92	5.91	88	7.58	84	14.09	83	4.77	87		91

Top 4 teams advance to CMTC Semi Finals