



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

Issue 7

Sunday

May 12 2019

Publisher: Eugene Chan

**Happy Mothers Day**

**CMTC Finals (Anderson vs Fraser)**

**COPC Finals (Jim Donaldson Trophy)**

**Today's sponsor: Cathy Miller (Samantha Nystrom Day)**



Left: Isabelle Brisbois

Right: Samantha Nystrom

The Canadian Bridge Championships and International Fund Regional wraps up, appropriately today, on Mothers Day with Samantha Nystrom Day sponsored by her mother, Cathy Miller. Hospitality last Sunday included a complimentary drink offered by Cathy Miller in memory of "Sam". Here's to you Sam: Cheers!



# CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Burnaby, B.C. - May 4 to 12, 2019



Unit 430, Vancouver, BC

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David and Mark Caplan, Gold Medallists  
Canadian Imp Pairs Championship

**Thanks to all players for making this the biggest Canadian Bridge Championships and International Fund Regional ever!**



Cartoon courtesy of Jude Goodwin



### From the Publisher:

I am fortunate to have travelled to other tournaments in North America and overseas. I like to see the different publications each tournament provided. Thanks to the wonders of internet, we can also download bulletins of tournaments we are unable to attend.

I wanted to produce a publication summarizing the important events and to focus on CBF activities in addition to the Canadian Bridge Championships. I also wanted to highlight the significant contributions of local BC bridge and its impact on Canadian bridge.

If, through these bulletins, the reader learnt something new. Then, I will have accomplished my objectives.

Eugene Chan, Publisher

Send feedback to: [echan1951@aol.com](mailto:echan1951@aol.com)

Electronic copies of this publication are downloadable from the ACBL Vancouver Unit 430 website at: [www.vancouverbridge.com](http://www.vancouverbridge.com). They are also available at: [www.greatbridgelinks.com](http://www.greatbridgelinks.com)

# Thanks for the memories....

By Eugene Chan

We hear it a lot. "The Good, they die young". Sam wasn't just good, she was very, very good.

One day, towards the late 90's. Cathy Miller and her barely 13 year old daughter appeared at the Vancouver Bridge Centre in our Thursday night beginners game. We always gave mini-lessons before our intermediate/novice games. At our peak, I was giving three of them a week. In March 1999, at the Vancouver Spring NABC held at the new Vancouver Convention Centre on the waterfront, Cathy and Sam were playing novice games (0-20 mps). I could not imagine what was to come in the ensuing years.

Boys will be boys, and teenagers will be teenagers. One night, Sam asked me to give her a ride home because she had somehow lost her pants. It was quite funny at the time, but aging memory has erased all details of the circumstances. I was honoured, in times of need, that she sought my help. She would tell me stuff, but made me promise not tell her mother. Sorry, Cathy.

Fast forward a couple of years and she had already won her first regional event, winning 2 of them with Mark Eddy at the last regional to be held at the Delta Resort Hotel in Richmond (now Sandman Signature Airport Hotel). I remember playing with Mark one day shortly thereafter. I got exasperated at Mark, exclaiming (too loudly), that he wasn't playing with a 13 year old girl. Sam heard me from across the room and gave me a look I will never forget. Sorry, Sam. (But I know she forgave me a long time ago.)

As the club manager of the Vancouver Bridge Centre, I did not have much opportunity to play with Sam. We had a strong 5 person team for the GNT Flight B (under 2000) Grand National Teams championship final at the 2005 Summer NABC in Atlanta. Our best line up was for Samantha (for me, she was always Samantha) and I anchored at one table and the other 3 team members rotated at the other table. Sam was disappointed I did not step forward as captain and insist on us anchoring at one table. Eventually, it was decided to play equal time. Our team was eliminated as soon as Samantha and I did not play together. I was surprised to learn years later that a team member felt badly at having "blown" the event. I assured him that we "win as a team and lose as a team" and that no-one was blaming him for the loss.

Sam soon moved up to the CWTC, winning everything but the gold medal. I had long thought she was the best female bridge player in Canada. My opinion was justified with her victory in the 2014 CNTC playing with Tom Walsh on a team with Gray McMullin, Bryan Maksymetz, and Rock Shi Yan. They won with Sam and Tom anchoring at one table.

The 2014 WBF Open Series Championships in Sanya, China was the last time I saw Samantha. Eurydice Nours and I, had travelled there to play in the WBF Open World Championship Mixed Pairs. Sam's CNTC team, with the addition of Daniel Korbel, later represented Canada at the 4th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships held Sept. 2014 in Glasgow, Scotland. Eurydice and I had planned to go to Orlando last year to play again in the World Mixed Pairs but cancelled as I was invited by ACBL Education to be a "Celebrity Speaker" at the Fall NABC in Honolulu. The WBF Open Series is every 4 years and anyone may participate. All bridge players should play in it at least once in their bridge careers.

She settled in Saint Catherines with Andrew Russell, a bright future ahead of her. Then came tragic news in Jan. 2016. It is sad but not unusual for young women to die before their time. In the 70's and 80's when I worked for a large crown corporation came occasion reports of younger women dying of breast cancer and other natural causes. In our own bridge community, Olga Guitelmakher, died suddenly in her early 30's.

Sam accomplished a lot in her short life. She has done her mother and her country proud. And, of course, a former bridge teacher. As they say, "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach."

Samantha is the best student a teacher could ever hope for. Thanks, Sam.

## Qualifiers to COPC Final

Carry over				Carry over			
1	26.00	David Caplan	Mark Caplan	15	13.00	Shelley Burns	Kelvin Raywood
2	23.28	Stephen Mackay	James Priebe	16	11.13	Gur Baykal	Margaret Baykal
3	22.86	Ina Demme	Bill Kertes	17	10.68	Cameron Doner	Julie Smith
4	22.29	Aidan Ballantyne	Katrin Litwin	18	10.27	Brad Bart	Neil Kimelman
5	21.00	Jerry Mamer	Dennis Nelson	19	8.10	Andrew Krywaniuk	Zoran Peca
6	19.29	Jacob Freeman	Marc-Andre Fourcaudot	20	7.16	Jeffrey Smith	Dan Jacob
7	18.78	Gustav Axen	Bjarne Christoffersen	21	7.12	Sheldon Spier	Michael Ainsley
8	18.41	Abdul Fakih	Daniel Bertrand	22	6.85	Jeffrey Blond	David Willis
9	16.37	Sandy McIlwain	Roberta McIlwain	23	5.44	David Huang	Xiangdong Meng
10	15.66	Karen Billett	Daniel Lyder	24	4.33	Bryan Maksymetz	Gray McMullin
11	15.23	Ying Hu	Xiangxiu Yang	25	1.77	Kevin Strangway	Robert Pratt
12	14.94	Janet Galbraith	Christopher Galbraith	26	1.64	Eugene Chan	Eurydice Nours
13	14.62	Andy Stark	Richard Chan	27	0.98	Alex Hong	Monica Angus
14	13.83	Ken Bercuson	George Mittelman	28	0.00	Bob Todd	Douglas Fisher

## CANADIAN MIXED TEAMS

### SEMI FINAL

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
<b>Anderson</b>	10	46	19	18	<b>93</b>
<b>Burns</b>	30	19	7	9	<b>65</b>

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
<b>Su</b>	29	31	22	9	<b>91</b>
<b>Fraser</b>	40	26	30	41	<b>137</b>