

**THE DUNANY CRIBBAGE CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1956**

BY JIM CAMERON

The idea or “spark” for the Dunany Cribbage Club came at a party given by Winnie and Tony Straessle on the occasion of a house warming party at their new home at Boyd Lake. The year was 1956.

As the party progressed the libations flowed freely, one of the invited guests asked another one, “did he know how to play cribbage?” He answered that he was the best cribbage player in the world and would challenge anyone in the room to a game.

When this remark spread among the invitees, it was suggested that we form a club to determine the best player and to show this upstart the error of his ways. Present were Ivan MacDougall (the braggart), Tony Straessle (our Swiss born host and self proclaimed expert), Jack Moore (of Montreal Bronze fame), Gavin Walker, Ken Laidley, Eric Burnell-Jones, Doug Percy and that tyro at the game Peter Palmer.

It was agreed that a game would be held shortly in early January on neutral grounds and it was decided to hold it on Clear Lake in a tent at the intersection of the four Municipal lines i.e. Chatham, Wentworth, Gore and Lachute. Arrangements were made in early January when the temperature outdoors was -20F and although the plastic tent was heated with two gas-fired infrared heaters, the temperature inside was almost the same as outside.

We were expecting a minimum of six players and we had purchased liquid anti-freeze i.e. scotch, rum, soda and coke to keep the players from freezing. Unfortunately, only three candidates turned up, Jack Moore, Gavin Walker and Peter Palmer, the two so-called experts (self proclaimed) did not show.

We played a few hands, Jack against Gavin, then Gavin against myself and finally Jack versus Peter. By that time, we decided to declare a dividend but the soft drinks had frozen and the scotch and the rum had the consistency of maple syrup. It was decided to abandon the tent for a more comfortable place like the Palmer kitchen with its warm wood stove.

This is my recollection of the first cribbage of the Dunany Cribbage Club.

Peter Palmer

December, 12, 2001

As one can imagine there were many stories especially later in the evening after the libations flowed. My first game for the Club was in 1998 as a spare and I heard lots of chatter from the other seven players, meeting most of the for the first time. On my second evening, later that year, I asked Peter to write down the history of the Club as he seemed to know more than most on how and when it started. He did so two years later and in the history it was mentioned that there was eight men at the party who wanted to be in the Club. This is why there were always eight regular members, the members regular in the Club changed due to members moving away or members passing on. This was the way it was from 1956 until 2011. After 2011 there was so many spares that we would have 16 players frequently so all became members. I have been running the Club for 20 years now. Jim Cameron

ANECDOTES

One of my favourite stories was the great tomato challenge. Peter Palmer and Doc Armstrong both took pride in growing tomatoes. Doc had his tomato garden on the lawn at the end of his driveway and after driving him home on many occasions he would ask me to get out and look at the tomatoes, he had great pride in his crop. Peter had a small green house and sometime the weeds were hiding the tomatoes. Late August both arrived with their tomato in a brown paper bag to be revealed later in the evening and we would vote on the best tomato. After a few games and drinks they both took out their tomatoes and although Doc's tomato was great, Peter had a bigger and almost perfect tomato, we all voted and Peter was named champ. Doc was disappointed but a true gentleman and so we played on and had a few more drinks. As everyone was leaving my house someone asked Peter what his secret was with growing tomatoes, he said "Provigo", and anyone can grow them there!

Paul "Mad Dog" McLaren tells the story of the night that Doug "Squire Percival" Percy rigged the deck. He removed all of the fives from the deck and he and the others at the table #1 played for more than forty-five minutes and numerous hands with no one taking notice that the card of life had not surfaced once. Not many natural fifteen two's on that particular evening.

Doug "Squire Percival" relates the fact on many an evening as the night wore on and the libations flowed freely you could on Paul "Pablo" McLaren and Ken "Have You Been Laid Lately" Laidley mistakenly drinking out of each other's glass and accordingly words being exchanged.

During an evening at Jim Cameron's while he was a spare, the scotch ran out. Jim opened the trap door in his living room floor and start down the stairs. Peter Palmer asked him what was he doing. Jim replied that he had a large collecting of scotch in the basement and at the point Peter yelled "that man should be made a regular member immediately!"



Front Left to Right: Jim Cameron, Bob McGuire, Bob Duncan, Dave Glionna, Don Smith, Marcel Raymond, Geoff Gale
Back: Moore, Ian Nelson, John Wilson, Ev Wood, Bob Hay, Andy Therrien, Bob Todd, Stan Roy



Back left to right Mac Cairns, Richard Lauzon, Don Joyce, Bill Osterman, Marcel Raymond, Bill Ott, Don Manconi, Ev Wood, Bill Moore, Rick Havill, Bob Duncan
Front: Doug Boyd, Jim Carmeron, Rod Armstrong, Geoff Gale