



MINUTES of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Bridge Federation Incorporated held at the McGill New Residence Hall Montreal, QC May 20-22, 2015

PRESENT: Kathie Macnab - Zone I Director
Andre Chartrand - Zone II Director
Nader Hanna - Zone III Director & President
Neil Kimelman - Zone IV Director & Vice-President
Jerry Mamer - Zone V Director
Angela Fenton - Zone VI Director
Ina Demme - Executive Assistant, Executive Secretary and Treasurer
Leo Weniger – invited guest - ACBL District 1 - May 21 & 22
Paul Janicki – invited guest - ACBL District 2 - May 21 & 22
Claire Jones – invited guest - ACBL District 18 - May 21 & 22

NOTE: Throughout these minutes, the following abbreviations are used:

CBF will refer to the Canadian Bridge Federation Incorporated
ACBL will refer to the American Contract Bridge League
CBC will refer to the Canadian Bridge Championships
CNTC will refer to the Canadian National Team Championship with A, B and C designating the flights
CWTC will refer to the Canadian Women’s Team Championship
COPC will refer to the Canadian Open Pairs Championship
CSTC will refer to the Canadian Senior Team Championship
CIPC will refer to the Canadian Imp Pairs Championship
COC will represent the Canadian Olympic Committee
AGM will represent the Annual General Membership meeting of the CBF.
WBF will refer to the World Bridge Federation
BC will refer to the publication Bridge Canada
DIC will refer to director-in-charge
NPC will refer to non-playing captains

Nader Hanna, as CBF President, assumed the Chair and **Ina Demme**, as Executive Secretary, was directed to act as Secretary of the meeting. **The Chairperson declared a quorum present and the meeting to be regularly constituted.**

1. CALL TO ORDER & AGENDA

At 8:37 a.m. the President called the meeting to order. Nader extended a welcome to all.

2. CORPORATE MATTERS

2.1 Confirmation of Elections

Ina Demme reported the following election results for 2014 elections.

- *Nader Hanna - Zone III Term: ends December 31, 2017- re-elected by acclamation*
- *Angela Fenton - Zone VI Term: ends December 31, 2017- elected by acclamation*

MOTION 15-1: The election of Nader Hanna and Angela Fenton are ratified by the Board.

MOVED by Jerry Mamer

SECONDED by Kathie Macnab

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2.2 Upcoming Elections

- *This fall elections will be conducted in Zones I and IV.*
- *Nominations are being accepted until September 30, 2015.*
- *Neil Kimelman indicated that he plans to seek re-election. Kathie will check if anyone in her zone is interested as per the agreement in Zone I.*
- *A Call for Candidates will run in the August 2015 issue of Bridge Canada. Clubs in Zones I & IV will also receive information by mail. The Call for Candidates notice will also be placed on the CBF website.*

2.3 Annual General Membership Meeting

- *The 2014 meeting was held on May 7, 2014 in Calgary, AB at the 2014 Canadian Bridge Championships.*
- *The minutes of the 2014 AGM were reviewed by the Board.*
- *2015 AGM is set for Montreal - Wednesday, May 27*
- *Nader Hanna will chair the meeting.*

3. MINUTES OF THE 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

3.1 May 7-9, 2014 CBF Board Meeting in Calgary, AB

MOTION 15-2: The minutes of the May 7-9, 2014 CBF Board of Directors meeting are ratified.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by Jerry Mamer.

CARRIED.

3.2 Actions done by Email Vote

MOTION 15-3: That email motions as presented in Appendix A of these minutes, are approved.

MOVED by Neil Kimelman.

SECONDED by Andre Chartrand.

CARRIED.

3.3 Business Arising from the Minutes

All items will be addressed under their corresponding topic.

4. BUSINESS REVIEW

The Board thanked Jean Castonguay and Andre Chartrand for the organization of the 2015 CBC. Nader then provided an overview of major 2014 initiatives and led a discussion on some business strategies and priorities going forward. Some of the highlights are:

- *CBF image – For the last few years we have been focused on changing the image of the CBF from an organization that only serves the interests of top players to one with something to offer all Canadian players. Towards that goal, we introduced the Mini-Richmond, added B/C events to the*

CBC schedule and revamped the content of Bridge Canada to include educational articles, humour, and other articles of general interest.

- *New Website – The new CBF website was recently launched and the feedback has been positive.*
- *World Championships – We are exploring the possibility of hosting the 2020 World Championships in Canada. The only time the world championships were held in Canada was in Montreal in 2002. Cost is a major obstacle as estimated costs are approximately one million dollars, including a US\$300,000 payment to the WBF. Hotel rebates, provincial programs, corporate sponsorship, as well as ACBL assistance are all possible sources to offset the estimated costs. We will continue to look into it but not if net cost to the CBF is significant.*
- *2015 priorities – continue our push to appeal to regular players in order to increase the base, and improve communication to members through website and Bridge Canada enhancements.*
- *The CBF will explore organizing bridge weekends aimed at new and social bridge players. Such weekends would provide a relaxed social environment for players to learn and improve their bridge.*

MOTION 15-4: That we investigate hiring someone for the part time marketing/promotion person for the CBF.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by Angela Fenton.

CARRIED.

- *New Canadian online team championship on BBO to run October - February. Registration through the CBF website.*

MOTION 15-5: To create an online team championship open to CBF members, with Open, B 0-2500, C 0-1000 and Women divisions. Entry fees are \$100 per team for A, \$75 per team for B, \$50 per team for C, and \$75 per team for women. Prize is an entry to 2016 CNTC or CWTC on a per person basis for the round robin. (or half of the value can be taken in cash). 8 teams are required in a flight, or we reserve the right to combine or cancel.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by Kathie Macnab.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION 15-6: To create an online team championship open to CBF members, for 299ers. Entry is \$20 per team, the winners receive a plaque.

MOVED by Andre Chartrand.

SECONDED by Jerry Mamer.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- *ACBL Update*
 - *Discussions are ongoing with the WBF and the ACBL regarding the WBF zone 2 organization and the ACBL's role as the zonal authority.*
 - *Junior funding issue has been resolved and the CBF will now receive US\$25,000 annually to fund junior activities. This certainty will allow us to better budget and plan our junior program.*
- *Chartwell cancelled its sponsorship of the CBF due to budgetary constraints.*
- *Membership dues were last raised in 2006 and costs have significantly increased since then.*

MOTION 15-7: Annual membership dues, paid by cheque or online (for renewals or new members), are increased to \$18 per year beginning January 1, 2016.

MOVED by Andre Chartrand.

**SECONDED by Kathie Macnab.
CARRIED.**

- *We have received interest from players in other countries to join the CBF. Current bylaws state that residency or citizenship is required for membership.*

MOTION 15-8: To modify the CBF Bylaws so that citizenship or residency are no longer requirements for membership. Residency or citizenship will remain a requirement for eligibility to represent Canada in international competitions.

**MOVED by Andre Chartrand.
SECONDED by Nader Hanna.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. CBF OFFICE

MOTION 15-9: That Gary Westfall is appointed the auditor for 2015.

**MOVED by Neil Kimelman.
SECONDED by Nader Hanna.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5.1 CBF Coordinator Performance Review

The board thanked Ina for her hard work. Feedback and areas for improvement were communicated to Ina.

MOTION 15-10: That Ina Demme, the CBF Executive Assistant be given a \$3,000 bonus in recognition of her work on behalf of the CBF during the past year.

**MOVED by Jerry Mamer.
SECONDED by Neil Kimelman.
CARRIED.**

6. INTERNET & WEBSITE

6.1 New Website

- *We can now accept new member payments on the website.*
- *Next step is to coordinate with ACBL to get accurate renewal dates and develop the ability to automatically process membership renewals through our new member management software (Membee).*
- *To keep the website up-to-date, we now have a schedule for updating the various website pages and rules for posting news items on the home page.*
- *Ideas for future enhancements include a fully bilingual version of the website, a bidding contest, a CBF library, surveys, etc*

Motion 15-11: To give Nader Hanna an honorarium of \$500 for his work on the new website.

**MOVED by Neil Kimmelman
SECONDED by Jerry Mamer
CARRIED.**

6.2 Webmaster Contract

- *With the plan to have a fully bilingual website, we need a website administrator who can provide bilingual support. Nader suggested that we consider FQJR (the Quebec based organization administering the MBL website). They have expertise in WordPress and their rates are very reasonable.*

- *Jude Godwin's website administration contract will not be renewed but we'll ask her to provide interim support during the transition to FQJR.*
- *EZ Hosts will bill us directly for hosting and technical support*

6.3 Advertising plan

Advertising rates were reviewed as follows to reflect the increased traffic on the new website and increased frequency of Bridge Canada:

- *Advertisement on the website only - \$250 per month.*
- *Bridge Canada rates:*

<i>Full page</i>	<i>\$250</i>
<i>Half page</i>	<i>\$150</i>
<i>Quarter page</i>	<i>\$ 87.5</i>
<i>Business Card</i>	<i>\$ 50</i>

A 10% discount applies to anyone who pays for a year of advertising in advance.

If a full or half page ad is purchased for a full year the ad is displayed on the website as well.

For smaller ads, if the website is desired it is and extra \$100 per month.

7. BRIDGE CANADA

- *As one of the main benefits of CBF membership Bridge Canada is now only available to members*
- *Neil Kimelman reported that things are going well. A schedule has been set with issues coming out the 1st of every second month.*
- *We will make announcements to members when the magazine is out.*
- *Honorarium for articles will not be increased at this time.*
- *We will ask Jude to also do the French layout and work with Francine Cimon on the French version of the magazine.*

8. CBF REGIONAL

- *The 2014 CBF Regional was held in Toronto and was very successful*
 - *1,000+ tables and more than \$20K profit.*
 - *One of the main reasons for success was holding it in September instead of January.*
 - *Morning games were not very popular.*
- *The regional is scheduled to be held in Kingston in 2015, Montreal in 2016, and Toronto in 2018.*
- *Kingston was scheduled to hold the 2017 regional but Ed O'Reilly is not well and the organizers asked us to cancel the agreement and refund the \$5,000 deposit.*

MOTION 15-12: That we refund the \$5,000 deposit made by Ed O'Reilly for the 2017 CBF Regional.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by Jerry Mamer.

CARRIED.

9. CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

9.1 2014 Review

- *Calgary was a difficult location, expensive coupled with the fact that attendance was low.*
- *Jerry made a recommendation that the zone director should be a key person in the arrangements*

9.2 2015 Championship committees

- *Disciplinary Committee – Andre Chartrand, Neil Kimelman, Kathie Macnab, Nader Hanna plus 2 players.*
- *Tournament Committee – Andre Chartrand, Nader Hanna, Neil Kimelman*

9.3 Future CBC

- *2016 Toronto – May 21-29 Delta Toronto East*
- *2017 Winnipeg – likely 3rd week of April at the Radisson Downtown*
- *2018 need location – Angela Fenton will investigate if Vancouver is possible, Kathie Macnab will also check the possibility of holding it in Zone 1.*
- *General guideline for the room block commitment is 400 room nights.*
- *The board discussed schedule changes to add new events, such as Board a Match and other regional events, to ensure that there are events available each day for attendees.*
- *It was decided that we need to have an opening reception for all participants.*
- *Need better promotion for all events. Early email blasts through ACBL email services is one idea.*
- *Hospitality budget has been \$125 per registered team for several years now.*

MOTION 15-13: That hospitality budget be increased to \$150 per registered team.

MOVED by Neil Kimelman.

SECONDED by Nader Hanna.

CARRIED.

9.4 Possible Changes to the CNTC, CWTC and CSTC

- *The idea of combining the CNTC and CSTC to select both the open and senior Canadian teams was discussed. It was decided that such format would introduce several problems and therefore is not advisable.*
- *Holding the CWTC as a stand alone event in the summer caused unforeseen problems and did not encourage more teams to participate. It was decided to go back to holding the CWTC as part of the CBC.*
- *We need to survey female membership to determine ways to improve the appeal of the CWTC. Kathie, Angela, Ina and Neil will design the survey. Questions may include impediments to playing in CBC, do you attend, if not, why not?*
- *The possibility of having the 4th place team to have the option to switch to 5th to improve their chances in the knock out rounds. Suggestion was not supported.*
- *We received suggestions to eliminate the surtax in the CWTC to encourage more teams to participate.*

MOTION 15-14: That the international fund surcharge for the CNTC, CSTC and CWTC be eliminated.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by Kathie Macnab.

CARRIED.

MOTION 15-15: All three Canadian teams (Open, Seniors and Women) representing Canada at a world championship are to receive equal subsidies of \$20,000 each, inclusive of the event entry fee and coaching.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by Kathie Macnab

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.5 Screens

- *We have 8 in Edmonton, 40 in Regina to use when the CBC is in Western Canada. We need to get the Edmonton screens to Cal.*
- *After the 2015 CBC in Montreal, Ina is to take 2 boxes of screens back to Toronto for the Mexico playoff match.*
- *We will explore the feasibility of buying some screen and vugraph tables from the ACBL.*

10. CBF POLICIES

- ***Eligibility to Represent Canada:*** *According to the existing policy, we have 2 known poisoned teams in this years' CBC due to players not meeting the policy's membership requirements..*
 - *We received petitions to soften the policy and allow an exemption or second chance for first timers.*

MOTION 15-16: **A player not meeting the membership requirements of the Eligibility to Represent Canada policy for the first time, will be deemed eligible to represent Canada upon payment of \$200 penalty prior to the start of play in the Canadian championship's National Final. Should that player's team be selected to represent Canada, the total CBF financial subsidy given to the team will be reduced by 5%.**

MOVED by Andre Chartrand.

SECONDED by Angela Fenton.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION 15-17: **Subject to AGM approval (the vote to exclude team members of the individuals involved) this new policy will apply to 2015 CBC participants.**

MOVED by Andre Chartrand.

SECONDED by Angela Fenton.

CARRIED.

- ***Smoking Policy:***

MOTION 15-18: **To also prohibit E-cigarettes in the smoking policy.**

MOVED by Jerry Mamer.

SECONDED by Neil Kimelman.

CARRIED.

- *The CBF Release forms for international competition have been revised to have separate forms for juniors which include parental release, and a separate forms for adults.*

11. HALL OF FAME

- *This year's inductees are Allan Graves and John Carruthers.*
- *There will also be a presentation to Irving Litvack from the MBL for the Intercity team match.*

12. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- *2015 marks the first year of the award*
- *George Retek is the first recipient of the award.*

13. ACBL MATTERS

- *Masterpoint plan – the reduction for Canadian team events was discussed. We need to make sure that USBF and CBF events are treated equitably.*

- *Online points – Jonathan Steinberg had asked that the CBF send a letter to the ACBL regarding the treatment of online points and that they be separated. Currently the Richmond race does not include masterpoints awarded for online play and on Canadian Lifetime total they are excluded. The Board felt that the Canadian issues are taken care of and that the remainder of races and lists are an ACBL matter.*

14. WBF UPDATE

Paul Janicki gave a report on the 2014 world championships in Sanya, and other WBF news.

- *Sanya*
 - *Senior committee decided to insert a free day in the schedule.*
 - *Women and senior team numbers were very low. Events watered down because so many events.*
 - *Our Game – may exclusively hold vugraph*
- *The German seniors involved in the coughing incident are suing.*
- *Revisions to disciplinary procedures.*
- *Elimination of appeal process.*
- *David Harris new WBF legal counsel.*
- *The WBF has added a National Pairs events (Open, Senior and Women) to the schedule of the World Bridge Games starting with 2016 in Wroclaw, Poland. These events are not transnational.*
- *A sample WBF card for standard systems will be available.*

15. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

15.1 2014 Sanya Review

- *As the NPC of the Canadian Seniors team, Paul Janicki gave a verbal report*
 - *Finished 16th out of 22*
 - *Team did not prepare well. Kokish was very helpful, Mostly in preparation prior to the championships.*
 - *Technology that the WBF has is impressive.*

15.2 Commonwealth Games

- *The Captain, Gray McMullin's Report was reviewed*

MOTION 15-19: To approve Gray McMullin's Captain's report for the Open Team.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by Jerry Mamer.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- *The Board felt that the Commonwealth games were a good option for the Open team in Open world championship years. However, in 2018 the Commonwealth Games are in February, ahead of the CBC so this will not work as an option.*

15.3 Canada Mexico Playoff

- *Mexico is sending 2 four person teams, an open and a women's*
- *The event will take place at the Delta Toronto East*

15.4 Future World Championships

- *2016 - Wroclaw, Poland. September 3 - 17*
- *2017 - Lyon, France August 12-26*
- *2018 - Orlando, Florida 22 September – 6 October*

15.5 NPC list

The list needs to be updated by November each year to add new approved applicants and to ensure that people on the list are still interested in being a NPC.

MOTION 15-20: To add Bryan Maksymetz to the NPC list for all teams.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by Angela Fenton.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

20. JUNIOR BRIDGE

- *We sent 2 youth teams to the 2014 World Youth Teams Championship in Istanbul, Turkey.*
 - *The juniors finished 9th out of 22 teams while the youngsters finished 14th out of 16 teams.*
 - *For the first time a Kids competition was held, for kids under 15 years of age. The event is by invitation. Accommodation was provided free of charge and there was no entry fee.*
Tentative plans are to hold the competition again in 2016.
- *Bryan Maksymetz agreed to stay on as CBF Junior Manager.*
- *Bridge in schools is thriving in Toronto. More than 450 youth attended the Schools Bridge Day at the Toronto Easter regional.*
- *Nader is mentoring 18 promising young players (ages 10 - 17) who have been recommended by their teachers.*
 - *The group and their parents have started a fund raising campaign to help the CBF send a Kids team to the 2016 World Youth Team Championships. Their goal is to raise \$30,000.*

21. INVESTMENT REPORT

Nader presented the Investment Report (attached).

22. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2014 statements were not ready for review by the board.

23. BUDGETS

Preliminary budgets were reviewed but not finalized.

24. STAC

In 2016 the sanction fee is \$8 per table as approved by the board last year.

26. CANADIAN ROOKIE MASTER GAMES

- *We have had a number of requests from clubs to hold the game on a different session than the one specified. Since we want to encourage participation and get as many rookies playing as possible, allowing the club to choose the session will accomplish this goal.*

MOTION 15-21: To allow clubs to choose the session/time during the day specified to hold the Rookie Master Games.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by Jerry Mamer.

CARRIED.

- *Clubs will be asked to not post hands online until the following morning.*

27. LONGEST DAY

The 2015 Longest Day event did not respect the agreement between the CBF and ACBL with respect to charity funds raised in Canada staying in Canada. Kathie Macnab is working on a solution for 2016.

28. FUN BRIDGE

A representative of FunBridge demonstrated their software. Ways that we can work together and offer something to our members were discussed.

29. OTHER BUSINESS

- *Carpet cleaning expense for CWTC in Edmonton – Steve Bates, the director in charge of the Regional during which the CWTC took place, deposited the CWTC playoffs entry fees into the District bank account instead of remitting them to the CBF. The District Board has decided to keep the full cost of the carpet cleaning (the CBF Board has only agreed to contribute \$300. Jerry was asked to resolve the issue with the District.*
- *Charity – It is the auditor's opinion that charity funds can be used for some junior related activities as such activities would fall under the "educational purposes" specified in the CBF Charitable Fund trust documents.*

30. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Ina Demme took over the chair to conduct the elections.

30.1 Election of Officers

Motion 15-22: Nader Hanna be elected as CBF President for the 2014/2015 term.

MOVED by Andre Chartrand

SECONDED by Angela Fenton

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 15-23: Neil Kimelman be elected as CBF Vice President for the 2014/2015 term.

MOVED by Andre Chartrand

SECONDED by Nader Hanna

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 15-24: Ina Demme be elected as Executive Secretary for the 2014/2015 term.

MOVED by Nader Hanna

SECONDED by Andre Chartrand

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 15-25: Ina Demme is elected as Treasurer for the 2014/2015 term.

MOVED by Nader Hanna

SECONDED by Andre Chartrand

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

30.2 Committees & Assignments

Committees:

Canadian Bridge Championships

Ina Demme, Nader Hanna

National Event Co-ordinator

Ina Demme

<i>Publication</i>	<i>Neil Kimelman, Jude Goodwin, Francine Cimon, Ina Demme</i>
<i>Conduct, Department & Ethics</i>	<i>Nader Hanna-chair, and CBF Board</i>
<i>International Events</i>	<i>Ina Demme, Nader Hanna</i>
<i>Canadian Olympic Committee</i>	<i>Ina Demme</i>
<i>Francophone Services</i>	<i>Andre Chartrand, Francine Cimon, Gerard Cote</i>
<i>Junior Development</i>	<i>Nader Hanna, Bryan Maksymetz, Paul Janicki</i>
<i>Trophies</i>	<i>Ina Demme</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>Ina Demme, Nader Hanna, Kathie Macnab, Andre Leclerc</i>
<i>Website Development</i>	<i>Nader Hanna, Andre Chartrand, Francine Cimon, Ina Demme, Andre Leclerc</i>
<i>Investment</i>	<i>Neil Kimelman, Nader Hanna, Jerry Mamer</i>
<i>Sponsorship/Fund Raising</i>	<i>CBF Zone Directors</i>
<i>Membership Promotion</i>	<i>Kathie Macnab, Neil Kimelman, Angela Fenton</i>
<i>CBC Disciplinary Committee (2015)</i>	<i>Nader Hanna, Andre Chartrand, Neil Kimelman, Kathie Macnab + two participants</i>
<i>CBC Tournament Committee</i>	<i>Nader Hanna, Jerry Mamer, Neil Kimelman</i>
<u>Board Assignments:</u>	
<i>Translations</i>	<i>Ina Demme</i>
<i>Finance Committee</i>	<i>Neil Kimelman, Jerry Mamer, Nader Hanna</i>
<i>Director Meeting</i>	<i>Ina Demme, Nader Hanna</i>
<i>Mexico Liaison</i>	<i>Ina Demme, Nader Hanna</i>
<i>CBF Regional</i>	<i>2015 Andre Chartrand, Ina Demme</i> <i>2016 Andre Chartrand, Jean Castonguay, Ina Demme</i>
<i>Conditions of Contest</i>	<i>Nader Hanna, Angela Fenton, Ina Demme</i>
<i>Hall of Fame</i>	<i>Nader Hanna, Neil Kimelman</i>
<i>Uniforms</i>	<i>Nader Hanna, Ina Demme</i>

31. NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Motion 15-26: The next meeting of the CBF Board of Directors will be in Toronto, ON, May 18-20, 2016, the three days prior to the 2016 Canadian Bridge Championships.

MOVED by Nader Hanna

SECONDED by Jerry Mamer

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 15-27: The meeting be adjourned at 3pm. Friday, May 23, 2015.

MOVED by Jerry Mamer

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY