

Canadian Bridge Federation
LA FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DE BRIDGE

10572 Fourth Line, Milton, On L9T 2X9

Telephone: 416-903-4009

Email Address: canbridge4009@gmail.com

Website: cbf.ca

Board of Directors

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: April 12, 13, 14 2025.
Time: 9:00 to 6:00
Location: MoBridge, Mississauga

MEETING TYPE:	<input type="radio"/> Regular	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Special
MINUTES TYPE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Proposed	<input type="radio"/> Approved

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Board Member Attendance:

Shelley Burns	SB	President	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Present	<input type="radio"/> Absent
Ginger Grant	GG	Vice President	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Present	<input type="radio"/> Absent
Catherine Kinsella	CK	Secretary	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Present	<input type="radio"/> Absent
Cathy Walsh	CW	Treasurer	<input type="radio"/> Present	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Absent
Allan Callard	AC	Director	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Present	<input type="radio"/> Absent
Deb Harper	DH	Director	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Present	<input type="radio"/> Absent
Marc-Andre Fourcaudot	MAF	Director	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Present	<input type="radio"/> Absent
Terry Du	TD	Director	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Present	<input type="radio"/> Absent

Note: Mike Hargreaves attended via Zoom on Sunday morning and in person on Monday.

The following special guests were invited to attend: Andy Stark Zoom 10:00 a.m. Monday, Shireen Mohandes 9:00 a.m. Sunday.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion 25.16: D. Harper

Support: T. Du

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 **Carried**

IV. Administrative Matters

Motion 25.17: D. Harper

Move to approve March 10 BOD Meeting Minutes as presented.

Support: A. Callard

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 **Carried**

Motion 25.18: A. Callard

Move to approve March 29 Special Meeting Minutes as presented.

Support: T. Du

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 **Carried**

1. Confirmation of Zone Directors

- Allan Callard confirmed as Zone I Director for Term of Jan. 1, 2025 – Dec. 31, 2027
- F. Mykytyshyn has not declared his intent to continue as the Zone IV Director
 - i. Review candidates to replace Freddie for the balance of the current term.
- Zone V Director position Open
 - i. Contact Clubs/Units in the Zone for recommendations.
- D. Harper confirmed as Zone II Director for the remainder of the Term of January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2025
- Upcoming/current elections – Zone II, Zone V

Motion 25.19: M. Hargreaves **That notice be given to F. Mykytyshyn of his suspension and he be invited to resign.**

Support: D. Harper

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 **Carried**

2. Hall of Fame – Nomination of Board Member for HOF committee

Motion 25.20 S. Burns **Move to have D. Harper serve on the HOF committee and to have the Lifetime Achievement Award to be administered by the HOF committee.**

Support: G. Grant

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 **Carried**

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3. AGM

- On-line **June 23, 2025 @ 7:30 EST**
- Quorum requirements – 3 zones, 7 people.
- Financials, 2024 AGM Minutes, AGM Agenda and any motions requiring membership ratification must be posted on website 30 days prior to meeting.
- Present highlights of BOD Meeting and Key Objectives for 2025
- Draft Condition of Contest available for feedback – ratification not required.
- Meeting Chairperson: Shelley Burns, President
- Zoom Meeting Administrator: Marc-Andre Fourcaudot
- Follow Robert's Rules and Zoom meeting rules (muting/raising hand etc.)

4. Reports

- 2025 Canadian Bridge Championships
 - i. Directors – Martin Hunter (DIC), Nancy Strachan
 - ii. Disciplinary/Appeals Committee – As required.
 - iii. Hospitality Arranged –HOF catered Thursday, April 17 7:00 pm
 - iv. Screens on-site, balance of supplies borrowed from HH and BCON.
 - v. 2026 RR schedule confirmed – will be posted by May 15
 - vi. 2026 Canadian Championships to be held in conjunction with the Penticton Regional, June 8 – 14, 2026 (Need agreement from D19 prior to posting)
- Rookie-Master
 - i. Helen Shields 2025 17 Clubs, 182 Tables, Revenue \$728 (+20%)
 - ii. Great participation in Eastern Canada (Zone 1)
 - iii. This game generates very little revenue but is a great event to market the CBF to clubs and newer bridge players.
 - iv. Certificates are to be mailed to club winners.
 - v. Plaques 2/zone and 2 Canada wide – removed year to reduce waste and save money.
- STAC Report
 - i. Due to a conflict with an ACBL new initiative we moved the CBF STAC one week later. Allowed clubs to participate in a Gold point event.
 - ii. The new model is much more efficient. The ACBL collects the STAC fees from the clubs and after covering their expenses remits the balance to the CBF. No effort required by the CBF.
 - iii. 2025 70 Clubs, 1200 Tables, \$3900 revenue – no effort
 - iv. 2020 ? Clubs, 2957 Tables, \$8500 revenue – significant collection effort
 - v. Reviewing the opportunity to run a second CBF STAC in Oct. 2025

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- Office Report
 - i. Membee Database clean up - complete.
 - 1. Met with Membee to review data inputs and opportunities for improvement (ease of use/maintain)
 - 2. Need to review response and access/implement fixes and workarounds. Will report to the board at the next board meeting.
 - 3. Database used to send out past due membership emails with limited success. (twice in the last 6 months)
 - 4. Trial turning on automatic renewal notification. Need to investigate parameters, data fields etc. (June 2025) **C. Kinsella**
 - ii. Document Repository / Information Sharing
 - 1. Looking into migrating to Microsoft Teams **T. Du**
- International Report **MA Fourcaudot**
 - i. Nader Hanna is our representative on the WBF until 2026
 - 1. Year 3 – 2025 World Team Championships (Zonal) 2 US, 1 Can/Mex
 - 2. Year 4 – 2026 World Bridge Series - Transnational – Any country can send one or more teams.
 - 3. Year 1 – 2027 World Team Championships (Zonal) 2 US, 1 Can/Mex
 - 4. Year 2 – 2028 World Bridge Games (Olympic) – Every country represented.
 - ii. 2025 WBF Team Championships is Aug. 20 - 31, Herning, Denmark
 - iii. Mexico will notify Canada by April 25 if they are competing in any of the four categories. Playoff is scheduled for May 31/ June 1 in Mississauga.
 - iv. Need to document the Zonal Playoff process re: notification etc. **MAF**
 - v. WBF fees \$1.20 US per CBF Member
 - 1. ACBL provides funding to the NABF (starting 2023) to cover all of Zone 2 WBF fees. (USA, Canada, Mexico)
 - 2. CBF provides membership numbers to the WBF.
 - a. We reported approximately 3900 Members, the WBF recognizes 19,000 Canadians (1600 Can. ACBL members)
 - vi. All WBF Disciplinary Reports need to be forwarded to the CBF Recorder
 - vii. Katie Thorpe attended the 2024 WBF Meeting of Congress for the CBF
 - viii. CBF currently covers entry fees, uniforms and some travel subsidies as outlined in the CoC.
 - ix. The CBF receives a subsidy from the ACBL for International Teams.
 - 1. A percentage of the International Games at the NABCs (Approx. \$12 K Canadian) Request an increase to \$25 / \$30 K based on teams attending world events. (33% of Zone 2 entries)
 - x. NABF (North American Bridge Federation) is made up of 9 members.
 - 1. Six Americans, Two Canadian, One Mexican
 - 2. Nader Hanna & Nick Gartaganis are the Canadian representatives.

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5. Election of Officers

- Nomination for President: S. Burns
 - i. Motion: Made and carried at an earlier meeting Carried
- Nomination for Vice President: Ginger Grant
 - i. Motion: A. Callard 2nd: D. Harper Carried
- Nomination for Treasurer: Under review based on C. Walsh health issues.
 - i. Motion:
- Nomination for Executive Assistant: Catherine Kinsella
 - i. Motion: S. Burns Carried
 - ii. C. Kinsella announced her retirement as of April 2026.

6. Committees/Responsibilities

Committee Chair

- Canadian Bridge Championships MA Fourcaudot
- National Event Coordinator S. Burns
- International Events & Mexico MA Fourcaudot, Nadar Hanna (WBF)
- Hall of Fame Nader Hanna
 - i. Honorarium of \$300 traditionally paid to chair.
 - ii. Added Lifetime Achievement Award to Committee Responsibilities
 - iii. D. Harper – CBF Board Representative
- Junior Development Andy Stark
 - i. Committee: A. Stark, T. Du, C. Walsh, C. Kinsella
 - ii. Honorarium paid as per the committee's recommendation.
- Publications – Bridge Canada Editor: Neil Kimelman
- Website M-A Fourcaudot
 - Content: C.K. / L.M. Structure/Navigation: L.M.
 - i. Work with Louise to improve ease of use / enhance website.
 - ii. Member login access
 - iii. Identify member issues and develop corrective action plans.
 - a. Website refresh (Canadian Championship Results)
 - b. Website Display Format when you different devices

Motion 25.21 A. Callard To allow Full access to the Bridge Canada Magazine to anyone accessing the CBF website effective immediately.

Support: G. Grant

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1 Carried

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- Membership Promotion D. Harper
 - Investment & Finance S. Burns, TBD
 - Sponsorship/ Fundraising G. Grant
 - Disciplinary Committee: Paul Cronin (chair)
Francine Cimon, Nicholas Krnjevic, Jim McAvoy, Bob Todd
 - i. Contact current standing members to see if they are still willing to serve.
- C. Kinsella June 2025**
- Appeals Committee: Should not include CBF Board member.
 - i. Follow up required to review structure, procedure etc. and report back to board
- Action: TBD**
- Advisory Committee: M. Hargreaves

Motion 25.22 M. Hargreaves To remove the formal Advisory Committee and utilize ad hoc committees based on the needs of the CBF Board.

Support: G. Grant

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1 Carried

- Recorder: Tony Reus
 - i. Complaints get recorded and forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee
 - ii. Confirm that he will remain as recorder
- C. Kinsella June 2025**
- Erin Berry Subsidy Committee: C.W. / T.D. / C.K.
 - i. Reviews applications for funding grants for juniors under 18 years old
 - ii. 15% of funds available to be distributed as a travel subsidy (balance at the end of 2024 was \$33,122.15)

7. Assignments

- Translations L. Mascolo
- Director Meetings S. Burns
 - i. Second Monday of the Month – Zoom 8:00 pm est.
- CBF Regional C. Kinsella
 - i. Potential to hold at another time during the year or “sell” to unit to run.
- Conditions of Contest MA Fourcaudot
 - i. To be reviewed annually and updated as required.
 - ii. Draft C of C is available at AGM for member feedback.
 - iii. Proposed changes to be approved by the CBF Board prior to Oct.1

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- CBF By-laws M. Hargreaves
 - i. To be reviewed annually and updated as required.
 - ii. Mike to review and provide proposed updates prior to May board meeting.
 - iii. Membership ratification required at AGM.
- Uniforms C. Kinsella
 - i. We have a stock of shirts that we are having difficulty using. Limited sizes and we are unable to source any more.
 - ii. WBF team uniform budget is \$3,000 – 2 t shirts, 1 light jacket/hoodie.
 - iii. Junior uniform budget is \$1500 – 2/3 t shirts and a hoodie.

V. Financial Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Total operating loss of (\$15,163) for 2024 – significant improvement over 2023
 - i. Gen. Fund loss of (12,824) – revenue increase of \$14K due to Maple Leaf program at Toronto NABC offset by an increase in Professional Fees of \$8 K (new auditors)
 - ii. International Fund loss of (2,449)
 - 1. Received less international funding from ACBL than budgeted.
 - As of Dec. 31, 2024, we have \$327,400 in term deposits @ interest rate of 2.5%.
 - Discussed opportunities to increase revenue and decrease expenses.
 - CBF Credit Program
 - i. Manually administered / tracked.
 - ii. Credits issued as prizes.
 - iii. Investigate # and amount of credits available (to be reviewed by the board at a future meeting).

Motion 25.23: D. Harper Approve 2024 Financials

Support: S. Burns

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 **Carried**

- Review of 2025 Canadian Bridge Championship Budget
 - CNTC revenue projections will generate sufficient revenue to cover expenses, WBF entrance fees and uniforms.
 - Significant cost savings at venue
 - CIPC event eliminated due to lack of interest in 2024 – reduces expenses.
 - Surplus revenue from COPC will be used to fund travel subsidies along with funding from the ACBL International games.
 - RR Qualifier fees were increased to support a \$5/hour rate increase for Directors.

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- Review of 2025 CBF Budget
 - Projecting a loss for 2025 in General Fund (-\$22,000)
 - Expenses tracking to budget.
 - General Fund is charging the Junior Fund a nominal fee for administration.
 - Expenditures
 - i. F2F Board Meetings – Hybrid Zoom meeting (cost savings)
 - ii. AGM – Move to On-line Format to increase accessibility (minor cost reduction)
 - iii. Hall of Fame – not significant: No projected cuts
 - iv. Review line-item costs for potential reduction, minimize discretionary spending!
- CBF Revenue Sources
 - Membership Revenue – Primary source of funds for General Fund
 - i. Automate renewal notifications and past due notices (Membee)
 - ii. Engage clubs to promote membership.
 - Advertising – Bridge Canada revenue of \$800. (Minimal Revenue Source)
 - Online Teams – highly successful and profitable (great visibility)
 - STAC Games – small profit of \$3,900, raised table fees, reduced administration.
 - i. Review potential for a second STAC in Oct. 2025 **C. Kinsella**
 - Tournaments – currently not a revenue generator, postpone CBF 2025 regional.
 - Government Grants/Sponsorship **G. Grant**
 - i. Need to demonstrate evidence of benefit.
 - ii. National Objective
 - iii. Review Grant Sources
- Submit a proposal to the ACBL for financial support **S. Burns**
 - Increase in International support from 12.5% of game revenues to 33% based on number of teams participating in international events.
 - Outline revenue and expenses and actions being taken to improve current projections.

VI. Committee Report(s)

1. Junior Program

A. Stark

- Potential playoff with Mexico averted.
- CBF will send two teams to play in the World Youth Team Championships
 - Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy July 12 to 17, 2025
- U26 NPC Terry Du
 - Team comprised of: Connor Havens – Quan Chen, Max Cheng – Cindy He – Martin Zhao – Olivia Laufer

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- U16 NPC Terrance Rego
 - Team comprised of: Casper Gu – William Liu – Rudy Cheng – Nina Ke – Aydan Jia – Honwell Xing
- Each team has been working with a mentor – great support from top players.
- 2025 Team trials held in December 2024 at Mobridge.
- Andy's looking for opportunities to further develop the junior program.
 - Bridge Camps
 - Online Training
 - Mentors
- Honorarium traditionally paid to chair.

2. ACBL Liaison

Darlene Scott

- The ACBL Board Spring Report was provided to the CBF Board.
- The board had a brief discussion on the impact of EDGAR on CBF members.
 - The CBF supports the disciplinary actions of the ACBL and other NBOs.
- The ACBL allocates \$25,000 US annually for Canadian Junior Bridge. In order to receive the funding, the Junior committee must submit an annual report outlining the progress of the program. Completed
- CBF needs to provide the current financial statements and expected expenditures to the ACBL. **C. Kinsella**
- The ACBL is willing to send out emails on behalf of the CBF to all Canadian ACBL members.
- Need to explore other opportunities to partner with the ACBL to improve the financial position of the CBF.

3. Bridge Canada

Neil Kimelman

- Four issues per year, honorariums for articles were discontinued.
 - Neil is producing the bulk of the content for each issue.
 - **Discussed adding a budget for content Honorarium** – postponed to next board meeting.
- Migrated to Discord – online tool for team to collaborate on publication.
- Members would like to see more pictures of players (personal/club content)
- CBF Board has decided to open Bridge Canada to the public.

4. Canadian Bridge Championships

MA Fourcaudot

- 2025 CBC
 - Follow current Conditions of Contest (14 board/segments)
 - Vugraph of CNTC Finals (2 days)
 - Clocks in Playing Area / Director announce 30 min. intervals / monitor slow play.
- Future Format
 - Reviewed MAF analysis document.

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- Open / Transnational Years keep current Hybrid Format
 - Subsidy to cover only WBF entry fee (Condition of Contest)
- Zonal years – propose full F2F schedule for Open Division
 - Further discussion and financial analysis required.
 - Subsidy to cover WBF entry fees and a travel allowance.

Motion 25.24: S. Burns Use Current Hybrid Format for Open and Transnational Years

Support: G. Grant

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 **Carried**

Motion 25.25: A. Callard Accept 2026 RR scheduled as discussed.

Support: G. Grant

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 **Carried**

2026 Round Robin Schedule

CMTC Jan. 9/10/11

CWTC Jan. 17/18

CNTC Jan. 23/24/25

CSTC Jan.31 / Feb.1 or Feb. 21/22

Motion 25.26: S. Burns 2026 Canadian Championships to be held in conjunction with the Penticton Regional June 15 to 21 with approval from D19 Board of Directors.

Support: A. Callard

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 **Carried**

- Need to conduct a 2025 event post-mortem in conjunction with Unit 166 to determine viability of future joint ventures.

VII. Special Events

1. Richmond Trophy / Awards

- Announce Richmond Winner at AGM and Bridge Bulletin
- Richmond pins ordered.
 - To be awarded in seven categories (up to 500 MP)
 - Zone Directors to send to home club for presentation.

2. Alzheimer support game

Week of June 21, 2025

- Send email out to all Clubs explaining event **C. Kinsella**
- Most clubs participate and send their funds directly to their local Alzheimer chapter. Not a lot of involvement with the CBF.
- Results to be published on the CBF website.

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3. On-line CBF Games

- The monthly CBF BBO game will run from September to March as a COPC qualifier game. (Not a lot of interest in these games.)
- An additional four BBO CNTC team qualifier games have been added to the schedule from September to December. These have proven to be very successful as many clubs do not hold team games.
- Game schedule published in September on the CBF website and via email. Additional game reminders sent out the week before the game **C. Kinsella**
- Review possibility to offer weekly CBF games on Real Bridge. **S. Burns**
 - Investigate and report the findings to the board.

VIII. New Business

1. Communication

- Produce quarterly emails to all Canadians **S.Burns**
 - ACBL to distribute.
- Update Club Manager Listing **C.Kinsella**
 - Send out to each Zone Director (May 2025)
- Provide Canadian content to the ACBL Bridge Bulletin
 - Canadian Championship Winners
 - Hall of Fame Inductees, Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

2. Marketing

- Develop our Value Proposition – “What’s in it for me?”
- Update/review Brochures / Posters - highlight advantages to becoming a member.
- Refresh CBF website.

3. Real Bridge Presentation

Shireen Mohandes

- Platform of choice for the Canadian RR Qualifiers
 - Additional security available using human monitoring/second camera.
- Very affordable \$.54 /person/ 20 boards
- Ease of use for both players and directors, very flexible, both audio and video
- Offers Swiss Pairs and Teams of eight
- Excellent Teaching tool
- Effective July 1, 2025, able to offer ACBL sanctioned games on Real Bridge
 - Players create e-wallet (Cdn \$)
 - Real Bridge will send the CBF their revenue monthly less the ACBL table fee (\$1.15 US) and the Real Bridge fee (More cost effective than BBO)
- Able to limit games.
- How do we bring value to CBF Members using Real Bridge?
 - Real Bridge and ACBL will help to develop/promote Canada-wide games.

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4. Canadian Bridge League Response

M. Hargreaves

- CBF Position Paper
 - i. Mike has emailed a response to the proposed Motion.
 - ii. Waiting to hear back from the member as to whether they want to put the motion before the membership at the AGM.
 - iii. Reviewed two previous studies.
 - iv. The CBF's position is that the board is against the formation of the CBL.
 - 1. Final Draft document to be circulated to the Board prior to the next board meeting.
- A motion such as this requires a special resolution (2/3 support at AGM)
- If required, the CBF's Position Paper will be posted on the CBF website at least 30 days prior to the AGM.
- An email will be sent to all CBF members announcing the AGM and providing a link to the agenda, the 2024 Financials, the CBL Position Paper and any other relevant documents.

5. CBF Key Objectives for 2025

- Break-even / become profitable.
- Create marketing plan / value proposition. What's in it for me?
- Canadian Championships - review / amend as required the Conditions of Contest and the Championship Format.

IX. Adjournment

Motion 25.27: M. Hargreaves

Carried

Minutes Certification:

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

Catherine Kinsella

Board Secretary /Recording Secretary

May 10, 2025

Date

Approved by the Board of Directors on May 12, 2025

Catherine Kinsella

Board Secretary

May 12, 2025

Date