



MINUTES of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Bridge Federation Incorporated held at the Radisson Downtown Winnipeg, MB April 26-28, 2017

PRESENT: Kathie Macnab - Zone I Director & Vice-President
Andre Chartrand - Zone II Director
Nader Hanna - Zone III Director
Neil Kimelman - Zone IV Director & President
Jerry Mamer - Zone V Director
Angela Fenton - Zone VI Director
Ina Demme - Executive Assistant, Executive Secretary and Treasurer
Claire Jones – invited guest - ACBL District Director – April 28

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

Neil Kimelman, 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 8:416 a.m. the President called the meeting to order.

2. CORPORATE MATTERS

2.1 Confirmation of Elections

Ina Demme reported the following election results for 2016 elections.

- *André Chartrand - Zone II Term: ends December 31, 2019 - re-elected by acclamation*
- *Jerry Mamer - Zone IV Term: ends December 31, 2019 - re-elected by acclamation*

**MOTION 17-1: The election of André Chartrand and Jerry Mamer are ratified by the Board.
MOVED by Nader Hanna
SECONDED by André Chartrand
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2.2 Upcoming Elections

- *This fall elections will be conducted in Zones III and VI.*
- *Nominations are being accepted until September 30, 2016.*
- *Angela Fenton indicated that she plans to seek re-election and Nader is considering whether or not to continue.*
- *In the future if we have someone considering taking over a seat about to be vacated, they may be invited to the Board of Directors meeting and the CBF will pay expenses.*

2.3 Annual General Membership Meeting

- *The 2016 meeting was held on May 22, 2016 in Toronto, ON at the 2016 Canadian Bridge Championships.*
- *The minutes of the 2016 AGM were reviewed by the Board.*
- *2017 AGM is set for Winnipeg – Sunday morning, April 30th in Terrace East*

3. MINUTES OF THE 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

3.1 Approval of Minutes

MOTION 17-2: To approve the minutes of the 2016 Board of Directors meeting.

**MOVED by Angela Fenton.
SECONDED by Kathie Macnab.
CARRIED.**

MOTION 17-3: To have the minutes of Board meetings ready one month after the meeting.

**MOVED by Angela Fenton.
SECONDED by Nader Hanna.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3.2 Conference Call Minutes

MOTION 17-4: To approve minutes of the xxx Conference Call.

**MOVED by Kathie Macnab.
SECONDED by Angela Fenton.
CARRIED.**

3.3 Actions done by Email Vote

MOTION 17-5: That email motions as presented in Appendix A of these minutes, are approved.

MOVED by Jerry Mamer.

SECONDED by Nader Hanna.

CARRIED.

4. BUSINESS REVIEW

- Last year there were complaints at the CBC. The Championship Committee should be notified right away. The Committee should meet with the Director at the end of the tournament or get a written report.
- At the June conference call discuss the number of directors assigned to our tournaments.
- Hall of Fame committee – Katie Thorpe is the new Chair, members are Michael Roche, Eric Kokish, Jim McAvoy, Karl Hicks, André Chartrand, Neil Kimelman
- Based on complaints we receive about CBC, the idea of having a players committee was discussed. However, consensus is very difficult in the short time we have to make decisions. Also, agreement may be difficult to achieve. Instead of a small group making decisions the whole Board should be involved.
- Board of Director issues – during Conference Calls, suggestion is to go around the table to give everyone a chance to comment. Need to be better about responding to email motions. Maybe collect responses on Basecamp?
- Organizational Priorities – we have only one employee, when we take on new projects, resources need to be considered. We need Board volunteers or contract workers to help get things done.
- Having a CBF credit card will help with accounting procedures.
- Possibly have CBF Points. A benefit of CBF membership. Points earned at CBC and CBF events. A possibility of a rating system. Maybe a partnership with FunBridge, they have a rating system.
- Dissatisfaction with ACBL is growing, what would it take to separate from ACBL?

Discussion of Priorities –

1. Financial reporting
2. Select and support international teams – through CBC
3. Develop bridge in Canada and promote by
 - a. Increasing membership
 - b. Improved content for 0-1000 Masterpoint level
 - c. Bridge Canada
 - d. Richmond races
 - e. Junior program
4. Charitable arm

How to develop Canadian bridge?

- Junior program
- Communication:
 - Monthly email to members
 - Frequently asked Questions on Website
 - Bilingual
- Alternative games
- Audrey Grant
 - Seminars
 - content
- Magazine
- Website
- CBF clubs
- Education
- Merchandise and/or Rewards
- BBO opportunities
- CBF Promotion

With many priorities and important areas to develop, consider ways to offload some duties from Executive Assistant. Areas where it may be possible to get assistance are membership issues, communications with members and clubs.

Possibility – start with \$x per month to do, emails, renewals, questions on membership. Mini-richmond awards.

5. BETTER BRIDGE PRESENTATION

- Audrey Grant and Dean joined the meeting
- We have done seminars in Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver, Halifax, Moncton, Charlottetown, and upcoming in St. John's.
- Better Bridge partnership – More to be discussed, maybe links on each others' sites.
- Audrey presented a video of her experiences in various locations. We will add it to our website.
- Audrey's concepts are – short games 2 hours long, cleaning up clubs is important, no first to last list
- Ideas for partnership – training for membership, each week post something new from Better Bridge on our website, digital subscription maybe Complimentary lesson online, 1 per member?
- Guidebook for how to run a multi-level social duplicate.
- Better Bridge invests small amounts to help bridge clubs. Giving new cards is a small thing to help clubs.

Better Bridge – What next?

- Finish seminars in remaining provinces – Ontario and Quebec
- Positive suggestions – cleaning up the clubs is important
- Short games - 2 hours works, longer games may not.
- Audrey suggestion that CBF provide leadership.
- No first to last, clean club, teacher training important.
- Give training program for membership program, each week something on our website – but need better, magazine article ready to go, digital subscription. Complimentary lesson, online 1 per CBF member.
- Guidebook on how to run a multi level social duplicate. Teacher training online adobe direct. Live audio no video. Daily column
- Alternative product, 10 pages, description
- Better bridge teachers video
- Dean's help
- Invest small amount to help bridge clubs. Clean card program – shipping over a period of 6 months, 3 doz or 4 dozen, clean cards, then the club responds how it helped
- Plastic cards much better.

6. CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

6.1 - 2017 CBC Winnipeg

Championship Committee – André Chartrand, Neil Kimelman, Angela Fenton, Nader Hanna when in Winnipeg

Eligibility to represent Canada – Poisoning was discussed with respect to people who may have inadvertently not paid their CBF dues. It was decided not to make an exception based on these circumstances.

6.2 – 2018 CBC

- We currently do not have a location for 2018 and this may be an option to do something different. Especially since this is an open year where attendance tends to be smaller.
 - Provincial playdowns – maybe play online against teams in other cities.
 - And we subsidize the provincial winners to come and play.
 - Work on something like this, maybe for 2022
- See if we can find a location in the next month, if not maybe hold on a smaller scale at a community centre or university

6.3– 2019 CBC

- Vancouver – Delta Burnaby Hotel and Conference Centre
- Food needs to be ordered from the hotel.
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6.4– 2020 CBC

- The Summer NABC is in Montreal, so the CBC should be in May

7. WEBSITE

- Nader presented a tour of our membership management website.
- We may need to look for another webmaster depending on what happens to FQJR and what happens with André Leclerc

8. DIRECTOR EXPENSES

- Travel for moving screens would be reimbursed
- Expenses for special events such as Audrey Grant seminar would be reimbursed.
- \$200 per year for miscellaneous expenses
- Mileage instead of airfare must be reasonable amount

9. CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

- We received complaints when we considered removing the Quarter Final from CNTC A due to low attendance. Also complaints when we put back the QF.
- Should we try to end pre-supper? Or play to 8 or 9.
- Not possible to get player feedback during scheduling process, maybe set up an email for CBF complaint department or Suggestion/Feedback department
- ACBL and WBF have general Conditions of Contest and Specific where an event needs something additional. General will cover the number of teams and playoff structure. Board will review, Nader volunteers to draft, Ina to do initial review.
- The situation is happening more often that a team member has medical issues after registering. If sick, they can be replaced at any time by submitting request to the Board. If a team signs up and a team member gets sick, a refund (less processing fee) can be given.
- There is a large gap between the CNTC B and C prize money, \$2000 and \$600 respectively.

MOTION 17-6: That CNTC B and CNTC C prizes be changed to \$1,500 and 1,000 respectively.

MOVED by Jerry Mamer.

SECONDED by Nader Hanna.

CARRIED.

10. ALZHEIMER EVENT – DAY OF BRIDGE BENEFITTING ALZHEIMER SOCIETIES

- Branding issue – US Association won't allow use of Longest Day in Canada.
- CBF is working with ACBL and Alzheimer Society to create event in Canada

11. ONLINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- André suggested that we look into a CBF club on BBO for CBF members, where you can earn CBF points that could be used as a credit for CBF events. BBO would report points to us.

- Online Championships – value vs problems is the issue. Jerry Mamer will be the co-ordinator of the online team league. Inappropriate behaviour will be subject to penalty. Jerry will draft rules. Registration deadline September 15th, start of league October 1st.

12. JUNIOR REPORT

- Some in the kids group are promoting bridge to peers. Two who are 15 are arranging bridge camps. Last time they raised just under 10k. Now parents want to pay expenses to send a kids team in addition to youth, and junior teams.
- A few from the kids group are now 15-20. Next time in China. So they are ready for under 20. We have 6 or 7 players who are 20-26 for the Under 26.
- We need new people for the program. How to find young people – Nader talked to coordinators. Most know Nader is involved and let him know of possibilities.

13. MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Bridge Canada – costs down this year. Send to membership. Leave article honorarium as is.

MOTION 17-7: To approve the budget for Bridge Canada of \$21,300 for 2017/2018.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by André Chartrand

CARRIED.

- Marketing and promotion –
 - 50th anniv
 - Zoomer contacted us, as they were developing online bridge, half a million across Canada distribution. Proposal from them was very onesided, they wanted our list of members.
 - NABC – CBF will have a booth. Give out copies of magazines, get convention card stickers with 50th anniversary logo, information about CBF events. Angela to coordinate the booth at NABC.

MOTION 17-8: That the CBF have a booth and give a \$2500 sponsorship to NABC, with an overall budget of \$4,000.

MOVED by Kathie Macnab.

SECONDED by Angela Fenton.

CARRIED.

- Member perks program –
 - We should try to get some statistics
 - If anyone got a huge discount we should publicize
- Mini-richmond – we should publicize rules and coordinate programming
 - Must be cbf member, Points earned before membership should not count.
 - Moving is ok, you will be considered as living in the unit where you resided majority of year

14. CBF REGIONAL

- Regional this year in Kingston, ON
- 2018 will be St. Catharines, ON
- maybe offer Kingston 2019
- Split Regional is an idea
- ACBL is now allowing online sections for Regional. Some districts aren't letting them in.
- Saskatoon is a possibility, but costs are high
- Maybe look into community centres, universities

15. STAC

- Down 200 tables – but we still make money.\$
- 8 sanction fee.
- 3rd week of Feb.

16. ROOKIE MASTER GAMES

- The current definition of rookie as 0-50 masterpoints was discussed. Since the concept of the game is to introduce new players to duplicate, it was decided to keep this definition and not increase masterpoint level.
- We will try to have a French translation of the analysis to see if participation in Quebec will be increased with bilingual material.
- We will reduce the sanction fee to \$0 and see if this will increase participation.
- Maybe introduce a credit system for masters who participate.

MOTION 17-9: To eliminate the sanction fee from Rookie Master games.

MOVED by André Chartrand.

SECONDED by Nader Hanna.

CARRIED.

17. WBF – UPDATE

- New laws introduced

18. ACBL UPDATE

- New CEO search is ongoing, there are a few good candidates. Starting interviews.
- Robert Hartman finished at the end of July.
- 168,000 paid to WBF for all ACBL members – that expenditure is being questioned. USBF contributed out of their money this year. This will be voted on at Toronto NABC
- No rezoning or redistricting at this time. – looking at how the board has its meetings.
- Districts will stay the same, how board selected will be looked at. Maybe 10 instead of 25 board members. Where 1 board member has 2 districts. On hold pending new CEO
- Tournament director manager – US regulation, change to hourly rate rather than session rate as employees.

19. INTERNATIONAL MATTERS

- IOC rules state that each country needs to participate in zonal conference. WBF has told ACBL that they cannot be zonal authority. ACBL feels that if an NBO wants representation, they should pay. USBF has bigger problem, it has to maintain 140,000 members to have 2 teams in Bermuda bowl. In Kansas, Ken Monzingo and Bob Heller met with Nader to discuss. All went to USBF meeting with WBF reps. Bob Heller, head, USBF, CBF and ACBL – how to make a zonal conference, what is ACBL role, what does it mean in terms of financials.
- Nader will continue to work on this.
- Canadian players get no WBF masterpoints. We are deemed to have come 4th or 5th. First 2 spots go to US.
- Wroclaw – playing space adequate. Some problems with computers for submitting line ups and for score printing. Restaurants and hotels far away, players needed to use public transportation. WBF added mickey mouse events, making each event smaller. For example, Mixed pairs was 10 sessions of 10 boards, over 2.5 days. To qualify for semi - final, but a lot drop in. Then the final is 9 tables.
- Mexico playoff, June 10 and 11. They will have 3 teams this time. Our teams get \$5000 per team.
- World Championships are in Orlando in 2018
- If things do not work out with ACBL and USBF, or if Mexico leaves and we not longer get a 3rd spot – we could join Central America zone 5. We would have to apply to WBF, but we have that option. We would need to playoff with them, for 2 teams from Central America, Mexico and Bermuda. There will be an increase in cost, to either host or to go there for playoff.

20. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Lifetime achievement award should be the “builder” type. And leave the Hall of Fame award for player achievements. This way we still recognize both categories.

MOTION 17-10: That Hall of Fame procedures be adjusted to remove the builder category and those people will be considered in the Lifetime Achievement Award.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by André Chartrand.

CARRIED.

- Nomination form needed for Lifetime Achievement Award. We will create one based on the Hall of Fame form.

21. CBF OFFICE

- Obituaries will be posted on the CBF site if they are known across Canada.
- Non-Playing Captains list – if a person from the list is picked nothing further needs to be done. If person not on the list is chosen, they should submit qualifications and the Board will consider the qualifications and ratify. We will post the names of people on the list, on our website and the list with qualifications will be sent to Captains of winning teams. \$1000 is held back from subsidy until report submitted, is an article for Bridge Canada a requirement?

MOTION 17-11: That Ina Demme, CBF Executive Assistant be given a bonus of \$2,000 in recognition of her work on behalf of the CBF during the past year.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by André Chartrand.

CARRIED.

MOTION 17-12: That Gary Westfall be appointed auditor for 2017.

MOVED by Neil Kimelman.

SECONDED by Kathie Macnab.

CARRIED.

22. COMMONWEALTH GAMES

- A few teams have approached us
- We will have an announcement on the CBF website – deadline is the end of August to express interest in attending. We will tell Commonwealth that we will send team.
- If more than one is interested, we will have online playoff. Matches online, not funded.
- Uniforms – we will provide uniforms. No choices, we will select the shirt, and provide 2 per person.

MOTION 17-13: To provide uniforms and entry fee, total up to \$1000. US.

MOVED by Angela Fenton.

SECONDED by Nader Hanna.

CARRIED.

23. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & BUDGETTING

- The 2016 statements were not ready for review by the Board. These will be discussed at the next conference call.

24. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Ina Demme took over the chair to conduct the elections.

24.1 Election of Officers

Motion 17-14: Neil Kimelman be elected as CBF President for the 2017/2018 term.

MOVED by Jerry Mamer

SECONDED by Nader Hanna

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 17-15: Kathie Macnab be elected as CBF Vice President for the 2017/2018 term.

MOVED by Angela Fenton

SECONDED by André Chartrand

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 17-16: Ina Demme be elected as Executive Secretary for the 2017/2018 term.

MOVED by Neil Kimelman

SECONDED by Kathie Macnab

CARRIED

Motion 17-17: Ina Demme is elected as Treasurer for the 2017/2018 term.

MOVED by Jerry Mamer

SECONDED by André Chartrand

CARRIED

24.2 Committees & Assignments

Committees:

<i>Canadian Bridge Championships</i>	<i>Ina Demme, Zone Director</i>
<i>National Event Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Ina Demme</i>
<i>Publication</i>	<i>Neil Kimelman, Jude Goodwin, Francine Cimon, Ina Demme</i>
<i>Conduct, Department & Ethics</i>	<i>Neil Kimelman-chair</i>
<i>International Events & Mexico</i>	<i>Nader Hanna</i>
<i>Francophone Services</i>	<i>Andre Chartrand</i>
<i>Junior Development</i>	<i>Nader Hanna</i>
<i>Trophies</i>	<i>Ina Demme</i>
<i>Website Feedback</i>	<i>Nader Hanna</i>
<i>Website Development</i>	<i>Nader Hanna</i>
<i>Investment & Finance</i>	<i>Neil Kimelman</i>
<i>Sponsorship/Fund Raising</i>	<i>Kathie Macnab</i>
<i>Membership Promotion</i>	<i>Angela Fenton</i>
<i>Disciplinary Committee</i>	<i>Neil Kimelman</i>
<i>CBC Tournament Committee</i>	<i>Neil Kimelman, Nader Hanna, André Chartrand, Angela Fenton</i>

Board Assignments:

<i>Translations</i>	<i>Ina Demme, André Chartrand</i>
<i>Director Meeting</i>	<i>Ina Demme, zone Director</i>
<i>CBF Regional</i>	<i>2018 Ina Demme, Nader Hanna</i>
<i>Conditions of Contest</i>	<i>Nader Hanna, Jerry Mamer</i>
<i>Hall of Fame</i>	<i>Neil Kimelman</i>
<i>Uniforms</i>	<i>Ina Demme</i>

25. NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Motion 17-18: The next meeting of the CBF Board of Directors will be the 3 days preceding the 2018 CBC.

MOVED by Angela Fenton

SECONDED by Kathie Macnab

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 15-27: The meeting be adjourned at 2:59pm Friday, April 28, 2017.
MOVED by Jerry Mamer
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY