



CANADIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INCORPORATED
LA FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE INCORPORÉE DE BRIDGE

1 Pietro Dr. Maple, ON L6A 3J4
Phone: (416) 706-8550 E-mail: canbridge@rogers.com



Annual General Membership Meeting
McGill New Residence Hall ☺
Wednesday, May 27, 2015 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes

Attendees:

Karl Hicks – Unit 194 – Zone I
James Kirby – Unit 194 – Zone I
Kathie Macnab – Unit 194 – Zone I CBF Director
Bill Halliday – Unit 194 – Zone I

Joseph Silver – Unit 151 – Zone II
Jurek Czyzowicz - Unit 192 - Zone II
Pamela Nisbet – Unit 192 – Zone II
Sylvia Summers – Unit 192 – Zone II
George Retek – Unit 151 – Zone II
Bill Bowman – Unit 192 – Zone II
John Bowman – Unit 192 – Zone II
Pierre Beauchamp – Unit 151 – Zone II

Nader Hanna - Unit 166 - Zone III - CBF President
Ray Jotcham - Unit 166 - Zone III
Steve Mehta – Unit 166 – Zone III
Michael Schoenborn – Unit 166 – Zone III
Ina Demme - Unit 246 - Zone III CBF Executive
Assistant
Stephen Mackay – Unit 246 – Zone III
Fred Lerner – Unit 246 – Zone III
Gur Baykal – Unit 246 – Zone III
Jonathan Steinberg – Unit 166 – Zone III

Katie Thorpe – Unit 249 – Zone III
Martin Kirr – Unit 166 – Zone III
Paul Janicki – Unit 166 – Zone III
Morrie Kleinplatz – Unit 249 – Zone III
David Lindop – Unit 166 – Zone III
Roy Hughes – Unit 166 – Zone III
Robert Lebi – Unit 166 – Zone III
Stephen Cooper – Unit 166 – Zone III
George Mittelman – Unit 249 – Zone III

Neil Kimelman - Unit 181 - Zone IV CBF Director

Gordon Campbell – Unit 390 – Zone V

Gray McMullin - Unit 430 - Zone VI
Michael Yuen – Unit 430 – Zone VI
Dan Jacob – Unit 430 – Zone VI
Mike Hargreaves – Unit 431 – Zone VI
Bryan Maksymetz – Unit 430 – Zone VI
Samantha Nystrom – Unit 430 – Zone VI

Brenda Bryant
Allan Graves

1. CALL TO ORDER

Nader Hanna, CBF President and Zone III Director, confirmed that a quorum was in attendance and called the meeting to order at 8:30am. Nader welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

MOTION AGM15-01: That the minutes of the May 7, 2014 AGM held in Calgary, AB be adopted as distributed.

Moved by Karl Hicks.

Seconded by Katie Thorpe.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No business arising from the minutes was brought up.

3. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

MOTION AGM15-02: Gary Westfall of Oakville, ON, be appointed CBF Auditor for the next fiscal year.

Moved by Jim Kirby.

Seconded by Paul Janicki.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. CONFIRMATION OF ZONE DIRECTORS

Ina Demme reported the following election results for 2015.

- **Kathie Macnab** was re-elected by acclamation as Zone I Director for the Term of January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018
- **Neil Kimelman** was elected by acclamation as Zone IV Director for the Term of January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018

MOTION AGM15-03: Kathie Macnab and Neil Kimelman are confirmed by the membership as Zone I and IV directors respectively.

Moved by Karl Hicks.

Seconded by Martin Kirr.

CARRIED.

This fall elections will be conducted in Zones II and V.

Zone I - term January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2019

Zone IV - term January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2019

5. PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2014

Ina Demme, CBF Treasurer for 2014, reported that the preliminary Financial statements were not available at this time.

6. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CBF BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING

The CBF Board of Directors held their annual meeting here in Montreal, May 20-22, 2015. Highlights of the meeting were presented to the membership. Full minutes of these meetings will be posted on the CBF website.

Because of the limited time available for the meeting, Nader Hanna, CBF President & Zone III CBF Director, suggested that everyone could read through the printed highlights (attached) but he wanted to focus on a few items.

a) Promotion

- *Explore hiring a person to be a co-ordinator to organize CBF branded events that have more social and instructional focus which would appeal to novice and intermediate players.*
- *Allan Graves pointed out that 1 of 8 get into duplicate bridge. Others want to play "relaxed" bridge. Suggested to develop a curriculum for learning without masterpoints.*

b) Funding

- *Suggestions were made by the membership about approaching the government to get funding for bridge as a sport. Nader advised that the CBF has previously approached Sports Canada for funding, and though bridge is recognized as a sport, it is excluded from available funding which is directed towards "physical" sports.*
- *Joey Silver suggested that members contact their MPs to encourage change.*
- *Gray McMullin suggested that we write a letter to the 3 parties asking about their policy with respect to bridge and aging.*

MOTION AGM15-04: That a letter be written to the 3 major political parties to ascertain their policy with respect to bridge and gaining.

Moved by Joey Silver.

Seconded by Ray Jotcham.

CARRIED.

- *Nader asked for a volunteer to do this, and there were no volunteers.*

c) *By-Law Change*

- *The CBF board had changed the by-laws to eliminate the need to be a Canadian citizen or resident to be a member of the CBF. To be eligible to represent Canada a member will still need to meet the citizenship or residency requirements as defined by the WBF.*
- *A show of hands was requested to see who was in favour, the majority was.*

d) *Online Championship*

- *The online teams event was announced.*
- *Gordon Campbell raised a concern that security online will be a problem. However, the prize is not that large, and therefore at this point, it is not a major concern.*

e) *International Topics & Eligibility*

- *Eligibility – in 2011 the Board passed a motion requiring a player to have been a member of the CBF since January of the previous year in order to be eligible to represent Canada. The Board had decided to change this policy slightly, so that if it is the player's first time to be affected by this rule, they could pay a penalty of \$200 and a reduction in the team subsidy of 5% would apply, but the team would be eligible to represent Canada. Normally the rule change would take effect the following year, but since there were 2 teams (1 had subsequently withdrawn) affected by this rule playing in the 2015 Championships, the Board wanted to bring it to the AGM, for a vote on whether to apply this rule to the 2015 Championships.*
- *A vote was conducted and the membership voted to allow the new rule to apply to the 2015 Championships.*
- *Since some topics were not covered, it was decided to continue the meeting the next morning.*

7. ADJOURNMENT - Part 1 May 27, 2015

That the meeting be adjourned until May 28, 8:30am. (9:50am)

Moved by Neil Kimelman.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Annual General Membership Meeting – Part II
McGill New Residence Hall ©
Thursday, May 28, 2015 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Pamela Nisbet – Unit 192 – Zone II
Sylvia Summers – Unit 192 – Zone II

Nader Hanna - Unit 166 - Zone III - CBF President
Ina Demme - Unit 246 - Zone III CBF Executive Assistant
Stephen Mackay – Unit 246 – Zone III
Katie Thorpe – Unit 249 – Zone III
Morrie Kleinplatz – Unit 249 – Zone III
Barry Senensky – Unit 166 – Zone III
Andy Altay – Unit 166 – Zone III

Gordon Campbell – Unit 390 – Zone V

Gray McMullin - Unit 430 - Zone VI

Brenda Bryant

Allan Graves

CALL TO ORDER

Nader Hanna, CBF President and Zone III Director, confirmed that a quorum was in attendance and called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

1. International Topics

- *Hosting the 2020 World Championship in Canada – It costs a lot of money to host the World Championship. We will investigate to see if it is feasible. Montreal is interested in 2020 but they are also having a summer NABC. Niagara Falls is a possibility since they do have suitable and available space.*
- *Playoff against Mexico – in June in Toronto. A concern was brought up that if a team from out west wins, it may be easier to play out west rather than travel to Toronto.*
- *New National Pairs events were introduced for the 2016 World Championships in Wroclaw, Poland.*
- *Nader Hanna reported that the Board had rescinded the prior policy where a 4 person team was required to augment from the 2nd place team, and if turned down then the 3rd etc. As suggested in the motion passed at the AGM in 2014, Motion AGM 14-05, a team may pick any pair subject to CBF board approval.*
- *Augmentation – The Board has passed a motion that an augmented player should be someone who has played in the major Canadian Championship events (CNTC-A, CWTC or CSTC) which qualified a team for the applicable World Championship.*

2. ACBL Issues

- *Junior funding – We now get a set annual amount and do not have to go through budgeting procedure.*

- *WBF Zonal representation – The organization of WBF Zone 2 (North American) does not meet the WBF by-laws and the IOC requirements, since the ACBL is not a National Bridge Organization (NBO).*
 - *Even though one of the 5 Zone 2 representatives is usually a Canadian, it is not a documented rule, and therefore there is no assurance that that will always be the case.*
 - *Masterpoint plans – the ACBL is now reducing masterpoints by 3% for each team under 32 teams, to a maximum of 50%. The Canadian Championships were affected but USBF were not.*
3. *Bylaw Change*
- The Board has passed a motion to change the make up of the advisory committee to the CBF Board of Directors. Previously only ACBL directors of Canadian districts and Canadian WBF executives were invited to be members of the CBF advisory committee. The change aims to allow the board flexibility to invite other CBF members to be part of the advisory committee and to reduce board meeting expenses.

MOTION AGM15-05: To ratify the change to the Bylaws allowing the advisory board that is invited to the CBF meetings to be at the discretion of the CBF Board.

Moved by Katie Thorpe.

Seconded by Gray McMullin.

CARRIED.

4. *Other topics*

- *A suggestion to have a grass roots Championship. To have a provincial championship before the CNTC.*
- *Women Teams – maybe send a survey to women in Canada, or have an advisory group to advise on how to generate interest in the women's teams.*

MOTION AGM15-06: That the CWTC be held regardless of the number of teams registered in the future.

Moved by Gray McMullin.

Seconded by Pamela Nisbet.

CARRIED.

MOTION AGM15-07: If practical to hold it in Kingston, that the CWTC be restored in Kingston in some form. The decision would be in consultation with the Kingston organizers.

Moved by Barry Senensky

Seconded by Sylvia Summers

CARRIED.

- *Based on the current augmentation rules, since Sylvia Summers may not be eligible for augmentation. Due to extenuating circumstances she was unable to play in an event. She would like to be eligible for augmentation.*

MOTION AGM15-08: That Sylvia Summers be eligible for augmentation for the 2015 World Championships.

Moved by Michael Yuen

Seconded by Steve Mackay

CARRIED

5. *Adjournment*

There being no further business, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:50am.

Moved by Steve Mackay

Nader Hanna - President & CBF Zone III Director
Meeting Chairperson
Dated: May 10, 2016

Ina Demme - CBF Executive Assistant

Highlights of the CBF Board of Directors Meetings

May 20-22, 2015 Montreal

2014 Review

The meeting began with a review of accomplishments during the last year and a discussion of priorities in 2015.

For the last few years one of the board's main concerns has been the low percentage of Canadian ACBL members who are also CBF members (<40%). Accordingly, the CBF strategy has been to focus on appealing to a wider segment of the Canadian bridge population by changing the image of the CBF from an organization that only serves the interests of the top players to an organization that has something to offer all Canadian bridge players.

Consistent with this strategy, one of the initiatives undertaken in 2014 was to revamp the content of the Bridge Canada magazine to include educational articles, humour, and other articles of general interest. We also increased the magazine frequency from 3 to 6 issues annually and, as a membership benefit, made it only available to CBF members.

Another initiative undertaken in 2014 was the implementation of a new membership management system and the complete redesign of our website. Some of the features of the new website, which was launched in March of this year, are:

- a new look and feel as well as improved navigation;
- enriched content to improve the user experience, and provide more organized and substantive information;
- a "*Members Only Section*" to allow CBF members to access current and past issues of the Bridge Canada magazine, access Canadian bridge memorabilia in the CBF Library, and to review the latest standings for the various CBF masterpoint races;
- the ability for members to register teams for the Canadian Open and Women team championships, and to pay the entry fees online by credit card; and
- new members can now join the CBF and pay their membership dues online

More new features are currently under development including a French version of the website, the ability to renew membership online, and a monthly interactive bidding contest.

Sponsorship

Due to budgetary constraints, Chartwell Retirement Residences decided not to renew their sponsorship of the CBF.

Membership and Promotion Plans

- Now that we have a membership management system, we are able to capture up to date members' contact information, and we'll therefore be able to more effectively communicate with our members.
- We'll explore hiring a coordinator to organize CBF branded events that have more social and instructional focus which would appeal to novice and intermediate players.

- Membership dues for the CBF have been the same since 2006. To offset the increased costs due to inflation as well as the costs of introducing new membership benefits, the CBF dues will increase to \$18 per year (\$1.50 per month), effective January 1, 2016.
- The board voted to change the CBF Bylaws to eliminate the requirement of being a Canadian citizen or resident to be a member of the CBF. To be eligible to represent Canada a member will still have to meet citizenship or residency requirements as defined by the WBF.

CBF Events

- A new a Canadian Online Team Championship (Open, B, C and Women divisions) will be introduced later this year. Participation will be restricted to CBF members. The prize for each player on the winning team will be a paid entry to the corresponding championship at the Canadian Bridge Championships (CBC), or a lesser cash amount. Entry fees will be \$100 for A, \$75 for B, \$50 for C and \$75 for Women. Additionally we shall have a 299er division (\$20 team entry) and the winners will receive a trophy. Registration for these events will be available through the CBF website.
- Due to the large number of teams participating in the CNTC-B and CNTC-C this year, we added a regionally rated B/C pairs event to the CBC schedule, to run opposite the COPC. The schedule for future CBCs will be reviewed to determine if it would make sense to add new regionally rated events to make the CBC attractive to more players.
- To encourage more participation and make it more attractive for teams with less chance of making the KO phase, the Board voted to remove the surcharge in the CNTC A, CWTC and CSTC, thus reducing the entry fees for these events. The CBF will increase the international team subsidies to offset the amounts lost from the elimination of the surtax. The 3 teams representing Canada will receive equal subsidies.
- Only four teams registered for the CWTC which was scheduled to be held in Kingston, Ontario during the CBF regional in July. According to the conditions of contest 6 teams were required to hold the CWTC in a team trial format, otherwise registration would open for pairs to register to hold the event in an Imp Pairs trial format which would require participation from a minimum of 16 pairs.
Since the experiment of holding the CWTC later in the summer in conjunction with a Regional has not been successful in increasing registration and generated negative feedback from players who competed last year in Edmonton, the CBF board decided to postpone the event to next year's CBC.
The CBF will also conduct an email survey among female members to solicit ideas for making the CWTC more appealing to more female players.

International Topics

- Since 2011 the CBF policy regarding “Eligibility to Represent Canada” stated that if a player's CBF membership has lapsed for more than 4 months since January 1 of the previous year, such player poisons his/her team and the team is not eligible to represent Canada.
The board decided to change the policy so that, ***if it is the player's first time, a penalty of \$200 and a 5% reduction in subsidy will apply, but the team will be eligible to represent Canada.***
As is the case with any changes to policy, this change is applicable to future Canadian Championships. However, since two teams participating in the current championships (one have since withdrawn) are poisoned according to the old policy, the board decided to ask the attendees at the AGM for an anonymous vote to determine if the policy change should be applied at these championships. Members of the affected teams are not permitted to vote.
- The Canadian Open and Women teams will play off against Mexico on June 27 and 28 in Toronto. The winners will represent WBF Zone 2 at the World Championships in Chennai, India, September 26 - October 10, 2015.

- The 2016 World Bridge Games (previously Bridge Olympiad) will be held September 2 - 17, in Wroclaw, Poland. A new National Pairs championship has been added to the schedule in the second week of the championships. There is no quota for the number of pairs representing each country.
- Based on the motion passed last year at the AGM in Calgary, the CBF Board has rescinded the augmentation policy passed at the Board meeting in Calgary which required a 4 person winning team to augment with a pair from the second place team in the same event. Accordingly, if a winning team consists of 4 or 5 players, they may augment to 6 from anyone who played in any of the 3 major team championships (CNTC-A, CWTC or CSTC) which qualified a team for that years' World Championships.

ACBL update

- The issues raised by the CBF regarding the inadequacy of the funding received from the North American Junior Fund for our Junior program, and the problems with the budgeting process, have been satisfactorily addressed by the ACBL.

The ACBL board voted in Providence to provide the CBF a fixed annual amount of US\$25,000 for junior activities. The USBF will receive US\$50,000 in annual funding.

- WBF Zone 2 (North America) is the only WBF zone that does not have a Zonal Conference with representation from the zone's National Bridge Organizations (NBOs). The ACBL has been the zone representative and the ACBL board elects the zone's 5 North American representatives to the WBF Executive Council. However, the USBF, CBF and MBF are not directly represented on the ACBL board. Accordingly, our zone structure is not in accordance with the WBF bylaws or the IOC rules. We continue to lobby the WBF and the ACBL to make changes that ensure that we have a direct voice in international matters and to protect Canadian interests.
- According to the new ACBL masterpoint plan, awards for team events are based on the participation of 32 or more teams and the awards are reduced by 3% for each team less than 32 up to maximum of 50% reduction.

Last year some of the awards for the Canadian championships were reduced accordingly while the USBF championships were exempt from such reduction. We brought the issue to the attention of the ACBL board last year but the issue has not yet been corrected.

Our position is that the USBF and CBF Championships should be treated in the same manner and that National Championships should be exempt from the reduction.