



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 23-25, 2018

PRESENT: Kathie Macnab - Zone I Director & Vice-President
Marc Lachapelle - 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
Cathy Walsh -- Treasurer
Leo Weniger – 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
CMTC will refer to the Canadian Mixed Team Championship
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 refer to the Canadian Olympic Committee
AGM will refer to 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 8:36 a.m. the President called the meeting to order and welcomed Marc Lachapelle and Cathy Walsh to their first Directors meeting.

2. CORPORATE MATTERS

2.1 Confirmation of Elections

Ina Demme reported the following election results for 2017 elections.

- *Nader Hanna - Zone III Term: ends December 31, 2020 - re-elected by acclamation*
- *Angela Fenton - Zone VI Term: ends December 31, 2020 - re-elected by acclamation*

MOTION 18-1: The elections of Nader Hanna and Angela Fenton are ratified by the Board.

MOVED by Jerry Mamer

SECONDED by Neil Kimelman

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2.2 Upcoming Elections

- *This fall elections will be conducted in Zones I and IV.*
- *Nominations are being accepted until September 30, 2018.*

2.3 Annual General Membership Meeting

- *The 2017 meeting was held on April 13, 2017 in Winnipeg, MB at the 2017 Canadian Bridge Championships.*
- *The minutes of the 2017 AGM have been reviewed by the Board.*
- *2018 AGM is set for Sunday morning, May 27th, 2019*

2.4 Actions done by Email Vote

MOTION 18-2: That email motions 2017/2018 as presented in Appendix A of these minutes, are approved.

MOVED by Nader Hanna.

SECONDED by Angela Fenton.

CARRIED.

3. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS REVIEW

Nader provided an update on a variety of topics:

- Administrative changes including the appointment of Cathy Walsh as treasurer and accounting manager, and Louise Mascolo as webmaster.
- Membership management system:
 - Last 3 years were spent cleaning our member database and working with ACBL to correct CBF membership renewal dates
 - We are now able to send renewal reminder emails, and notices of overdue membership dues
 - Members can now renew their membership directly on our website
- Membership continues to decline and we need to increase our efforts to promote the CBF and increase membership. Some of the ideas discussed:
 - Create content for new players on our website
 - Increase the new player content in Bridge Canada
 - Provide a CBF promotional brochure to all Canadian clubs to help the clubs promote the CBF
 - Get involved and invest in club ownership as a way of getting closer to our members and influencing the promotional efforts at the club level
 - Finding ways to have teachers promote the CBF to new players

4. TREASURER REPORT

4.1 Financial Statements

- Cathy reviewed some suggested changes to the format of the financial statements
- Plan to communicate with clubs regarding HST input tax credit on funds remitted to CBF

MOTION 18-3: To approve financial statements subject to possible minor revisions.

MOVED by Jerry Mamer.

SECONDED by Nader Hanna.

CARRIED.

5. INVESTMENT REPORT

- 3.28% annual return on investments with Investors Group
- Priority is maintaining capital
- The Investment Committee will meet with Andy Altay, our Investors Group representative, and review our investments to improve return.

6. INTERNATIONAL MATTERS

- The WBF annual membership dues (\$1 US per year per member) was paid by the ACBL for all North American ACBL members. At its board meetings in Toronto, the ACBL board of directors passed a motion to have each National Bridge Organization (NBO) pay its own WBF dues. The ACBL will provide some financial assistance for the years 2018 to 2021.
- Little progress made in forming the zonal organization for WBF Zone II, partially due to the sudden departure of the ACBL CEO who was leading the negotiations on behalf of the ACBL.
- The WBF is introducing online robot tournaments with the idea of sharing the revenue with the NBOs.
- This year the World Championship is in Orlando and it is an open year where no qualification is necessary and anyone can go – Canadians must be CBF members.
- Next year's world championship is tentatively planned in Sanya, China.
- Starting next year, the number of teams competing in the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and D'Orsi Trophy will be increased to 24 teams. The additional two teams will come from Europe.
- Also starting next year a new mixed team championship will be held in the odd-numbered years. The format will be the same as the Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and D'Orsi Trophy.
- We need to hold a Canadian mixed team championship to qualify a team for the world championship. The total subsidy budget (currently \$60,000) will not be increased due to our financial constraints, and will be shared equally by the teams representing the CBF up to a maximum of \$20,000 subsidy per team.

MOTION 18-4: To add a Canadian National Mixed Team championship to the CBC schedule to qualify for the World Championships.

MOVED by Angela Fenton.

SECONDED by Nader Hanna.

CARRIED.

7. CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

7.1 2017 - Winnipeg

- The CNTC B issue was dealt with. In the future the Conditions of Contest will be clear on playoff structure for any number of teams.
- Directors fees continue to grow. We have very little control over director costs.
- ACBL director reporting structure has changed and its not clear who is in charge.
- We have several issues with how the ACBL Masterpoint Plan awards masterpoints to our national championships. Nader has raised these issues with the ACBL and Russ Jones advised that the masterpoint committee will look into it.

7.2 2018 - Montreal

- Montreal Bridge League has been very helpful in organizing and advertising.

- Marc Lachapelle has done a fabulous job with hospitality.
- CNTC A final is the only planned vugraph broadcast due to the limited availability of vugraph operators
- Championship committee will be – Marc Lachapelle, Neil Kimelman, Nader Hanna and Kathie Macnab

7.3 2019 - Vancouver

- 2019 hospitality will be expensive – all food must be supplied by the hotel
- In the past the hospitality budget was \$150 per registered team, plus \$6 per regional table (which was impossible to accurately determine ahead of time).

MOTION 18-5: Starting with 2019 the hospitality budget will be \$150 per registered team.

MOVED by Nader Hanna

SECONDED by Kathie Macnab.

CARRIED.

- We need to promote the regional events, the hotel is the same one that the last Vancouver Regional was held in and people liked the rooms
- Vugraph Coordinator and operators are hard to find
- Unit volunteers will get free entries
- Screens will be coming from Winnipeg
- Our screens need replacement – Nader will look into this.

7.4 Future CBCs

- There were no proposals for the location of future CBCs

8. ACBL UPDATE

- Leo Weniger, the ACBL District 1 representative joined the meeting and provided an ACBL update, including the possible restructuring of ACBL Board of Directors.
- ACBL CFO, Joe Jones, was appointed interim ACBL CEO after the departure of Bahar Gadwani.
- Canadian fees policy – The exchange rate is now fixed at 1.24. Units and clubs are aware. Rate will be reviewed Apr. 1st or If there is a 10% change up or down.
- We brought up a few issues:
 - Director costs and whether TAs can be used at our tournaments. Leo advised that director costs are often 30% or so of revenues (CBC director costs are significantly higher around 50%).
 - Masterpoint plan – Does not properly reflect the format and length of our events. Awards for USBF events specify a certain number of places, and so should ours.
 - Misconception that Canadian ACBL board members represent the CBF
 - Alzheimer event – why can't it work like a STAC with funds coming directly to CBF CF, instead of to ACBL and then be returned to us?

9. ONLINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- The Open Division worked very smoothly.
- We have struggled with participation in flight B and Women divisions. Last year they were combined. Suggestion to just have one Open division going forward.

- There was a delay in scheduling the playoffs. We should have a deadline.
- Entry fees - \$96/team, same as last year

10. JUNIORS

- Nader gets in touch with youth clubs and school teachers to let them know about our junior program and identify youths with potential to join the CBF program.
- If Board members know young players, refer them to Nader. They need an intermediate level of knowledge before they can join the program.
- Teams selection is through online sessions
- Several mentors Online
- Several youth bridge clubs have started in some areas (Toronto, Ottawa, and Waterloo)
- Currently 8 out of the top 14 in the ACBL Youth masterpoint race standings (19 and under) are Canadians. 7 of the 8 are on our youth teams.
- We participated with 2 teams in the new WBF youth online championships. Match scheduling was a major issue because of the significant time difference.
- Our youth players are well behaved, and the parents are very supportive.
- We may not have a Junior team (under 25) in 2020 as we no longer have enough potential players in that age group to form a team.
- Donations – we created a link on our website to donate to the CBF Junior Fund online. The response was great and we raised \$5,000 from members and non-members who donated to assist us in sending a Kids team to the 2018 World Youth Championships (the WYTC has 4 competitions, in the past we were only able to compete in the Juniors and Youngsters categories).
- At the Eric Murray memorial it was suggested that donations be made to the CBF Junior fund.
- Considering a youth bridge summer camp next year.

11. BRIDGE CANADA

- Neil Kimelman reported that 2017 came in under budget, 2018 budget will be similar
- How to promote the magazine? We included a bridge problem from the magazine on the CBF home page.
- We don't have good statistics on how many people read each issue.
- Suggestion to do a survey and ask how Bridge Canada is serving our members.

MOTION 18-6: To approve the Bridge Canada budget of \$21,929 for 2018.

MOVED by Nader Hanna

SECONDED by Angela Fenton

CARRIED.

12. WEBSITE

- FQJR lost its Quebec government grant and is no longer in business. Louise Mascolo (MBL webmaster) is now our webmaster.
- The website is run on a shoestring budget, so we do what we can with the limited resources.
- MBL has done a great job promoting the Montreal CBC and the regional events.

13. CBF REGIONAL

- Our 2017 Regional was in Kingston, ON. It was run by a different group due to the illness of Ed O'Riely and table counts were down. It is unlikely that they will be offering to purchase the Regional in the future.
- In 2018 the CBF Regional will be held at the Holiday Inn in St. Catharines, ON. September 4-9. We are able to bring in our own hospitality supplies which will reduce the cost significantly.
- Ideas for future regionals - Maybe Ottawa or Montreal.

14. CBF STAC

- Revenue from the 2018 STAC was \$7,470. This was up from \$1,517 in 2017 due to a change in the ACBL fee structure.
- Tables and clubs participating were down from 2017. Our fee per table is \$8. Lower than most other STACs.
- STAC should be 3rd week of February in the future.

15. ROOKIE MASTER GAME

- The number of clubs participating in the Helen Shields spring Rookie Master game was up to 27 with 325.5 tables participating.
- The fall Erin Berry game had 18 clubs with 224 tables.
- If we translate the analysis into French, we may attract more Quebec clubs. We will pay an honorarium for the translation.
- Neil Kimelman will do the 2018 Erin Berry analysis.

16. RICHMOND TROPHY

- The Board reviewed the criteria for winning the Richmond Trophy to define what "Canada's top masterpoint winner" means, and to decide if CBF membership is the only criteria, or is it citizenship and/or residency.
 - Currently the ACBL produces the Richmond Trophy standings based on CBF membership as well as residency in Canada (with consideration for snowbirds). Online masterpoints are not included in the total for the purpose of the Richmond Trophy masterpoint race.
- The Board decided that the criteria for winning the Richmond Trophy should be residency in Canada for at least 180 days in the year, as well as CBF membership.

17. HALL OF FAME

- Two inductees this year – Sharyn Reus and Kamel Fergani
- No Lifetime achievement award this year.
- ACBL Hall of Fame – Mark Molson will be inducted this summer
- Changes to the CBF HoF Operating Procedures
 - In the past we had two categories, Builder and Player. In the future Lifetime achievement award will recognize "builders" and the CBF Board will decide the recipient.
 - The CBF Board will be represented by only one member (not necessarily the President) on the HoF committee. Term limits of two 3 year terms. Currently Neil Kimelman is the Board representative, Marc Lachapelle will replace him.

MOTION 18-7: To approve the Hall of Fame Operating Procedure changes.

MOVED by Angela Fenton

SECONDED by Kathie Macnab

CARRIED.

MOTION 18-8: To award the Hall of Fame Chair a \$300 per year honorarium.

MOVED by Neil Kimelman

SECONDED by Nader Hanna

CARRIED.

18. BUDGET

- CBC revenue will be moved from the General fund to the International fund

MOTION 18-9: To approve the 2018 budget.

MOVED by Jerry Mamer

SECONDED by Angela Fenton

CARRIED.

19. OFFICE UPDATE

- Translation – if we want to have more participation from Quebec, we need to consider translation of all of our communications. Marc Lachapelle has volunteered to help with translation.
- Locker – We have a locker to hold boards and screens. All of the Montreal boards will be coming to Toronto after the CBC.
- For loading and shipping and moving the items in the locker we need someone to lift and move the supplies. So we either need to pay a mover, or find someone to take care of the supplies which are very heavy to move.

20. OTHER BUSINESS

- The board decided to create a promotion committee (Neil, Marc and Kathie) to review our logo/branding and mission statement, and to develop a professional promotional brochure to be sent to all Canadian clubs.
- Facebook – We don't do enough to promote ourselves. Jude Goodwin is the one who updates the page, but it is not regularly updated.
- Conference calls – we use Rogers, but there may be other options. Webex is an option for video calls. We need to investigate.

21. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Ina Demme took over the chair to conduct the elections.

21.1 Election of Officers

Motion 18-10: Nader Hanna be elected as CBF President for the 2018/2019 term.

MOVED by Kathie Macnab

SECONDED by Jerry Mamer

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion 18-11: Neil Kimelman be elected as CBF Vice President for the 2018/2019 term.

**MOVED by Jerry Mamer
SECONDED by Nader Hanna
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion 18-12: Ina Demme be elected as Executive Secretary for the 2018/2019 term.

**MOVED by Nader Hanna
SECONDED by Jerry Mamer
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion 18-13: Cathy Walsh is elected as Treasurer for the 2018/2019 term.

**MOVED by Neil Kimelman
SECONDED by Angela Fenton
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

21.2 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, Marc Lachapelle</i>
<i>International Events & Mexico</i>	<i>Nader Hanna</i>
<i>Francophone Services</i>	<i>Marc Lachapelle</i>
<i>Junior Development</i>	<i>Nader Hanna</i>
<i>Trophies</i>	<i>Ina Demme</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>Nader Hanna</i>
<i>Investment & Finance</i>	<i>Jerry Mamer</i>
<i>Sponsorship/Fund Raising</i>	<i>Kathie Macnab</i>
<i>Membership & Promotion</i>	<i>Marc Lachapelle Chair, Neil Kimelman, Kathie Macnab</i>
<i>Ethics Committee</i>	<i>Neil Kimelman</i>
<i>CBC Tournament Committee</i>	<i>Marc Lachapelle, Neil Kimelman, Nader Hanna, Kathie Macnab</i>

Board Assignments:

<i>Translations</i>	<i>Marc Lachapelle</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</i>
<i>Hall of Fame</i>	<i>Marc Lachapelle</i>
<i>Finance Committee</i>	<i>Marc Lachapelle, Neil Kimelman, Nader Hanna, Cathy Walsh, Ina Demme</i>
<i>Uniforms</i>	<i>Ina Demme</i>

22. NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Motion 18-14: The next meeting of the CBF Board of Directors will be the 3 days preceding the 2019 CBC.

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

Motion 18-15: The meeting be adjourned at 1:53pm May 25, 2018

**MOVED by Jerry Mamer
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**