



## Canadian Bridge Federation – Board of Directors Meeting

**Date:** March 9, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 PM ET

**Location:** Online Meeting (Zoom)

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MEETING TYPE: Regular ▾

MINUTES TYPE: Proposed ▾

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm ET

### II. Roll Call

	Tt ATTENDEES	Title	☾ Status
SB	<a href="#">Shelley Burns</a>	President, Director Zone VI	<span>Present ▾</span>
AC	<a href="#">Allan Callard</a>	Vice-President, Director - Zone I	<span>Present ▾</span>
XC	<a href="#">Xavier Combey</a>	Director - Zone II	<span>Present ▾</span>
TD	<a href="#">Terry Du</a>	Director - Zone III	<span>Present ▾</span>
MB	<a href="#">Marielle Decelles-Brentnall</a>	Director - Zone IV	<span>Present ▾</span>
LM	<a href="#">Lois Matton</a>	Treasurer, Director - Zone V	<span>Present ▾</span>
MH	<a href="#">Paul Janicki</a>	Director at Large	<span>Present ▾</span>
SO	<a href="#">Sondra Blank</a>	Executive Administrator	<span>Present ▾</span>
LM	<a href="#">Louise Mascolo</a>	Webmaster	<span>Absent ▾</span>

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### III. Approval of February 9, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

**Motion 26-10:** To accept the minutes of the February 9, 2026 Board Meeting.

Moved by: Allan Callard

Seconded by: Lois Matton

**Ayes: 7**

**Carried unanimously**

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## IV. Update on Events

### Fundraiser – Celebrity Auction:

- The Celebrity Auction fundraiser generated over \$26,000 CAD in revenue
- Total direct costs were estimated to be about \$5,000 CAD
- It was noted that starting promotion earlier could increase revenue significantly, potentially raising 50% more funds.
- Shelley proposed maintaining an inclusive model, allowing anyone willing to participate and attract bids to join the event.
- Shelley met winners Jan Jasma and Paul Frea in St. Louis and presented trophies.
- Participants reported positive experiences.
- A “Save the Date” notice has already been prepared for the Monday before the NABC (March 8 next year).
- Sondra Blank acknowledged that Tracey Bauer’s marketing and promotional efforts were effective and cost was relatively low given the exposure achieved.

### Maple Leaf Games:

- Shelley advised that, following discussions with Bronia, ACBL has agreed not to schedule competing games on Fridays.
- Proposal discussed to change the lower flight to 0–1500 to strengthen the Open game and improve participation.
- Concerns were raised about changing the format too frequently and about whether flight changes alone would improve participation. Sondra reported recent attendance figures had remained low, with most weeks producing only one session rather than two separate games.
- It was noted that players generally enjoy the RealBridge experience once they try it, but the account setup and payment process may be a barrier to entry.
- Net proceeds will be distributed after deduction of director fees and ACBL fees, with 50% to CBF and 50% allocated to clubs based on player designation; any undesignated portion will remain with CBF.
- ACBL will distribute club payments directly, as it already holds club banking information.
- Board also discussed the broader purpose of the Maple Leaf games:
  - Increasing CBF relevance to Canadian players, building community, and sharing revenue with clubs.
- Suggestions to improve participation included:
  - Stronger communication with clubs, encouraging board members and stronger players to invite others, and offering help to players unfamiliar with setting up and using RealBridge accounts.

### *Decision*

- The Board agreed to change the lower flight of the Maple Leaf Friday game to 0–1500, with the second section remaining Open.
- The Board agreed to keep the current start time of 8:00 p.m. ET for now and reassess later if needed.

### Tuesday IMP Pairs:

- Participation was described as limited, despite the value of the format and post-game analysis.
- Xavier commented that the game quality can be uneven, which may discourage stronger players from participating regularly.

### Spring Team League:

Sondra Blank reported that the Spring Team League page has launched. Current registrations were low, with three teams registered, and a fourth expected shortly.

### 2026 Canadian Championships

#### *Schedule*

- Shelley introduced scheduling options previously circulated for the 2026 Canadian Championships.
- The Board discussed balancing and coordination with Hall of Fame ceremony and the concurrent regional event.
- It was noted that the current Conditions of Contest provide for 60 boards, while previous years had used 56 boards.
- After discussion, the Board agreed to retain 60 boards for 2026 as it aligns with the current Conditions of Contest and with comparable events such as USBF trials.
- The Board also agreed that the standard start time will be 9:30 a.m.
- A shorter 45-minute lunch break and 15-minute intervals between sessions were supported in order to avoid ending too late.

- The Thursday schedule remains subject to final confirmation because of the desire to accommodate the Hall of Fame / Lifetime Achievement ceremony

#### **Hall of Fame Ceremony**

- The Board discussed holding the ceremony after play is scheduled to finish, or adjusting Thursday's start time.

#### **Action:**

→ Shelley to speak with Sandra and Doug Fraser and confirm the most appropriate Thursday arrangement.

**Note:** *The Hall of Fame Ceremony will be on Friday June 19th from 17:00 to 19:00*

#### **CNTC B and CNTC C**

- Currently have 5 teams in Flight B and 3 teams in Flight C (*after edit: Had 4 teams registered in C*)

#### **Board Meeting Arrangements**

- Shelley proposed hosting the Saturday board meeting on the deck outside her hotel and having a bbq for dinner.
- Lois advised that the Saturday boardroom had already been confirmed and that she would attempt to cancel or revise the booking.

**Note:** *Booking has been revised.*

#### **2027 Canadian Championships - Quebec City:**

- The regional is expected to run 5 days - Thursday May 20 to Monday May 24th.
- The CBF championships would begin one day earlier and end one day later.
- The budget presented for Quebec City showed an estimated loss of approximately \$8,000 for the championship week itself. Lois advised that this loss would be offset by income from the round robins and qualifying events.

**Motion 26-11** That the 2027 Canadian Championships be held in Quebec City

Moved by: Shelley Burns

Seconded by: Paul Janicki

**Motion carried unanimously**

#### **COPC (Canadian Open Pairs Championship):**

- The COPC is scheduled for April 25-26 and will be held online on RealBridge
- There are still two qualifying events remaining, currently scheduled for March 20 and April 10.
- The board discussed pricing - under the current Conditions of Contest, the fee is listed as \$120 per pair per day, based on the former face-to-face format.
- Tentative fee direction: Open \$40 per person per day. B flight: \$30 per person per day.
- The COPC should be sanctioned.
- It was agreed that cash prizes should be awarded for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Possibly 20% / 10% / 5% of entries collected.
- **COPC Conditions of Contest:** the COPC Conditions of Contest remain incomplete and that the current draft, based on the general 2025–2026 Conditions of Contest, does not adequately reflect the online format. The Board discussed seeking outside assistance and other possible resources to help finalize the document.

## **V. Subcommittee Reports**

**Educational Foundation proposal:** Allan advised that he has compiled the information received from Gim into a draft proposal for the Board. Once Gim confirms the draft, he will circulate it to the full Board for review.

**Zonal Voting Procedures:** Allan reported that he has circulated a draft report on zonal voting procedures to the Board. Board members were asked to provide comments by mid-March.

## VI. IT & Website

- It was noted that, as previously discussed, further work is needed regarding IT and website matters.
  - Bronia expressed willingness of the ACBL to provide support and a meeting will be scheduled next week with the ACBL IT staff to discuss:
    - Database access / transfer
    - Communications support
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## VII. Other Business

### Bridge Magazine

- Sondra reported that the test overlap of the March bridge magazine issue had been successful
- Neil Kimelman has formerly advised Goodwin Studios
- The Board noted that the change represents a cost-saving measure

### Junior Committee Update

- Terry Du reported that he has provided the required activity reports for the past two years to ACBL.
- The remaining requirement is the related financial reporting, which Lois will provide.
- Shelley noted that she had spoken with Bronia in St. Louis regarding funding support for juniors.
- She advised that approximately \$10,000 may be available for 2024 if the required reporting is completed properly, and that 2025 funding may also be possible if all requested information is supplied.
- Junior committee funding from ACBL: Financial reports were submitted to ACBL February 23, 2026. No amounts have been received as of today's date. (March 30, 2026)

### Appeals Procedures

- Paul raised the need for stronger and clearer appeals procedures, noting recent situations that highlighted gaps in the current process.
  - He reported reviewing procedures used by the WBF and USBF:
    - WBF uses a reviewer to determine whether proper procedures were followed.
    - USBF allows full player appeals that may result in a changed ruling.
  - Shelley provided background on a recent Team League dispute involving Sondra's team and Terry's team, where Catherine handled the matter objectively and consulted with an ACBL National director, resulting in a 60/40 ruling.
  - For the Team League, there should not be formal appeals process, as it would delay playoff administration. Instead disputes should be referred to an independent, high-level director, and the ruling be final.
  - For other competitions, including championship events, separate appeal procedures may be appropriate.
  - Paul and Xavier agreed to work on drafting improved appeals language and procedures, with input from the rest of the Board as needed.
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**Motion 26-12:** To adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Allan Callard

Seconded by: Marielle Decelles-Brentnall

**Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM ET

Next Meeting: April 13, 2026 at 6:00PM ET