



Canadian Bridge Federation – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: May 11, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM ET

Location: Online Meeting (Zoom)

ATTENDEES	Title	
Shelley Burns	President, Director Zone VI	Present
Allan Callard	Vice-President, Director - Zone I	Present
Xavier Combey	Director - Zone II	Present
Terry Du	Director - Zone III	Present
Marielle Decelles-Brentnall	Director - Zone IV	Present
Lois Matton	Treasurer, Director - Zone V	Present
Paul Janicki	Director at Large	Present
Sondra Blank	Executive Administrator	Present
Louise Mascolo	Webmaster	Present
<i>Barry Senensky</i>	<i>Guest – Hall of Fame Proposal</i>	<i>Joined at 7:30PM</i>

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Shelley Burns called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM Eastern Time. The meeting was conducted via zoom video conference.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 13th board meeting.

- Moved by: Allan Callard
- Seconded by: Terry Du
- Result: Carried
- **Motion 26-17**

3. UPDATE ON EVENTS

3a. Maple Leaf Games Format Review

Maple Leaf Friday games are still averaging approximately seven tables. While the games are not losing money, there is significant room for growth.

- The current start time of 8:00 PM ET was discussed. The board agreed to maintain the current start time through at least the fall to avoid frequent schedule changes.
- Several promotion ideas were discussed.
- Concerns were raised that clubs have not yet received any revenue distributions from Maple Leaf Games, reducing their incentive to promote the games.
- The CBF is still awaiting club affiliation data from RealBridge required to distribute payments.
- The board generally agreed that resolving payment distribution issues should take priority before increasing promotional efforts.

Action: Shelley to follow up with the ACBL about including Maple Leaf Games promotion in Live4Club results emails.

Action: Lois to arrange a meeting with Shireen at RealBridge regarding club affiliation data

Action: Marielle to assist Shelley and Lois with the RealBridge data

Action: Further promotional emails to clubs and members to be deferred until the payment/data issues are resolved.

3b. Rookie Master Games - Awards

The Board discussed replacing mailed certificates and plaques with digital certificates and medals for the national winners. Decision:

- Medals will be awarded to the national winners as well as a digital certificate.
- Zone and clubs winners will receive digital certificates only.
- Winners will be asked to send a photo back to the CBF for posting on the website.

Action: Sondra to source medals for the overall R/M winners, possibly ordering enough for future events and to send digital certificates to the club and zone winners (via the clubs they played at)

3c. COPC / B Recap

Shelley reviewed the recent COPC event and noted that participation numbers were lower than hoped, with fewer than 20 pairs registered shortly before the deadline. 26 pairs played in the 2 day event.

Due to low participation in the B category, the B and Open fields were combined.

- All B participants received RealBridge credits as a goodwill gesture

The Board discussed ongoing challenges with promoting CBF events and increasing participation.

- Promotional material could be distributed at tournaments and through Unit officials and cubs
- Improved website functionality and visibility should help promote future events more effectively.
- It was noted that clubs currently promote qualifying games for extra masterpoints but often do little to encourage actual participation in national championships.
- Units and Clubs need to be more engaged in promoting CBF championship participation
- Stronger communication and engagement with Units and clubs is needed to rebuild participation in national events.

4. 2026 CANADIAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS (PENTICTON, BC)

4a. Board Meeting Logistics

Planned board meeting schedule in Penticton:

- Saturday: Informal gathering/meeting at a hotel location
- Sunday: Formal meeting in a rented boardroom, 9 AM – 6 PM.
- Monday: Half-day (no room booked yet)

Action: Shelley to follow up with the venue contact (Tracey) to confirm meeting room availability for Monday.

4b. Dealing Machines

Sondra is waiting to hear from Dave Johnson about securing a dealing machine. Lois offered to check with her club, which has two machines available.

Action: Lois to confirm availability of a dealing machine from her club for Penticton.

4c. Appeals Committee

The need to establish appeals committee was raised.

- A suggest approach was having team captains each designate a representative.
- Concerns were raised regarding committee members potentially having already played the same boards involved in an appeal
- This will be discussed further at Penticton.

4d. Expense Reimbursement Policy

Lois Matton confirmed the reimbursement policy for Penticton

- Board members attending Saturday or Sunday meetings will be reimbursed for 2 nights' accommodation plus travel.
- Per diem: \$60/day (excluding Saturday, as CBF is covering the Saturday group dinner).
- Receipts required for travel and hotel.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

5a. CBFEF – Educational Foundation Proposal

Allan reported that the Education Foundation proposal remains on hold because of Gim Ong's health. It will likely be another couple of months before progress resumes.

5b. Junior Committee

Action: Sondra to schedule a Junior Committee meeting for the week following this meeting.

Action: Terry Du (with committee) to prepare a written overview of the committee structure and Andy Stark's role, to be circulated prior to the Penticton meeting.

6. TREASURER REPORTS

6a. 2025 Audited Statements

- 2025 CBF financial statements have been sent to Dan Edwards for review.
- Charity financial statements are substantially complete pending tax return preparation.
- Additional director information may still be required for filings.

Action: All board members to provide Lois with their current address and date of birth.

6b. Insurance

- Lois reported that the Directors and Officers liability insurance expires May 31.
- The insurer has acknowledged the move of the head office from Ontario to Alberta and will now proceed with the 2026-27 renewal.
- Lois will ensure the coverage is in place before expiry.

6c. Games Invoicing

Lois reported that the new QuickBooks invoicing system has worked very well for Rookie Master billing.

- Invoices were sent via email to participating clubs.
- Most clubs have already paid. (Only four clubs remain outstanding.)
- Lois and Sondra are continuing to work through billing procedures for charity games.

Action: Sondra will contact the ACBL (Josie) to request clarification regarding the differing fee structures and reporting forms

6d. GST Filing

- Quarterly GST filings have been completed.
- The CBF paid slightly more than \$3,000 in GST for the quarter

7. Agenda for Penticton

The Board discussed items to be added to the Penticton meeting agenda, including:

- CNTC Conditions of Contest updates, including removal of written defenses to Multi.
- COPC Conditions of Contest and planning for next year
- Improving communication with players, clubs and units
- Enhancing the CBF calendar and website information
- Junior program structure
- Ways to involve juniors in supporting the CBF, including social media and promotional work.

Shelley asked all Board members to think over the next week about additional topics that should be discussed in Penticton.

8. 2026 AGM

The Board confirmed details for the 2026 CBF AGM:

- Date: June 23, 2026
- Time: 7:00 p.m. Eastern
- Format: Online via Zoom

9. WEBSITE & IT

Sondra reported that she has been in discussions with Itsik Romano from Definite Image. Key points:

- Sondra has already updated the website backend
- Rather than duplicating backend work, Itsik proposed using a prepaid block of development hours to improve high-priority website functionality and layout.
- Priorities identified included:
 - Creating improved landing pages and layouts
 - Improving usability and navigation
 - Creating an events calendar

Motion 26-18: To reallocate the previously budgeted website backend update funds to purchase a 10-hour block of time from Definite Image for priority website improvements.

- Moved by: Allan Callard
- Seconded by: Marielle Decelles-Brentnall
- Result: Carried – all in favour

10. HALL OF FAME PROPOSAL

Prior to Barry Senensky joining the meeting, the Board briefly discussed the Hall of Fame proposal submitted for consideration.

Barry joined the meeting to present his proposal regarding changes to the CBF Hall of Fame selection process.

10a. Barry's Key Concerns

- The current Hall of Fame process is controlled by a small non-elected committee.
- The same committee both determines eligibility criteria and selects recipients.
- This structure can create concerns regarding fairness, transparency, and perceived bias.
- Criteria for Hall of Fame vs. Lifetime Achievement Award are applied inconsistently

10b. Proposed New Selection Model

Barry proposed that the CBF adopt a process similar to the ACBL model, adapted for Canada.

- Retaining a Hall of Fame committee to nominate candidates for the ballot.
- Expanding final voting to a broader qualified voting group rather than a small committee.
- Eligible voters could include Hall of Fame members, Grand Life Masters, and other highly accomplished CBF members.
- Candidates would require approximately a two-thirds majority for election
- A maximum of two inductees per year.
- Eliminating the separate Lifetime Achievement Award category.
- Moving previous Lifetime Achievement recipients into the Hall of Fame
- Using a single Hall of Fame category recognizing both playing accomplishments and broader contributions to bridge.

10c. Board Discussion

Board members discussed several aspects of the proposal. Several members acknowledged that portions of the proposal had merit and raised valid concerns regarding consistency and transparency.

- Whether the current Hall of Fame committee should remain involved in the nomination process.
- How voters would be selected and how large the voting pool would be.

- Whether separate categories for players and contributors/builders should continue to exist.
- The role of objective criteria and eligibility standards.
- Whether younger players or deceased players should be considered under different standards, similar to certain ACBL categories.
- Additional discussion and review would be required before any structural changes are adopted.
- Input should be obtained from the existing Hall of Fame committee before decisions are made.
- The Board was not prepared to make a decision during the meeting.
- The current committee should be given an opportunity to review and comment on the proposal before changes are considered.
- The Board must ensure any future changes are carefully evaluated and supported by clear criteria.
- The proposal would be reviewed further and feedback would be requested from the current Hall of Fame committee.

Action: Allan Callard to draft a thank-you letter to Barry Senensky

Action: Louise to update the CBF website Hall of Fame page to reflect the current criteria (teachers/authors/administrators no longer eligible for Hall of Fame).

Action: Marielle to review the Hall of Fame operating procedures (last updated May 2018) and to present Barry's proposal to the Hall of Fame committee and gather their input.

11. E-BRIDGE ONLINE EVENT

The board briefly discussed a World Bridge Federation (WBF) online individual championship played on BBO. The CBF would receive a small revenue share based on Canadian participation.

Board consensus: CBF will not actively promote or dedicate resources to this event. Given the ongoing challenges of promoting CBF's own events, adding another event risks confusing members. The decision was made to limit involvement to a low-key website news post only, if feasible.

Action: Louise / Sondra to assess whether a simple news post about the WBF eBridge championship can be added to the CBF website.

14. CBF TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ON REALBRIDGE (NEW INITIATIVE)

A proposal was introduced to consider running a transnational-style online teams championship, similar to recent European online events.

Format Overview:

- Open to teams from any country
- Matches scheduled flexibly based on team availability over a multi-day window
- Prizes to be determine (medals and prize money – no masterpoints given ACBL fees)
- Event date would be late October / early November

Estimated participation of approximately 50 teams was considered achievable.

Board consensus: Concept supported in principle. Further discussion and planning required, including RealBridge commitment to support the technical side. It was suggested that well-known players be recruited to help promote the event internationally. These contacts may also support future CBF fundraising initiatives, including a celebrity auction.

15. PROMOTING NON CBF EVENTS ON THE CBF WEBSITE

Xavier attended the Kingston Regional and met Karen Keys-Endemann, a lawyer whose unit has been very successful at fundraising. It was proposed that the CBF website be used to promote Canadian ACBL regionals, possibly under a section such as "Upcoming Canadian Tournaments". The board agreed that promoting regional bridge events aligns with the CBF's mission.

Action: Sondra to speak with Itsik Romano to incorporate a regional tournament calendar into the new website.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

Motion	Moved / Seconded	Result
26-17: Approve April 13th minutes	Callard / Du	Carried
26-18: Reallocate website budget to purchase 10-hour block from Definite Image	Callard / Decelles-Brentnall	Carried

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will take place in person at the Canadian Championships in Penticton, BC on Saturday June 13th, Sunday June 14th, and Monday June 15th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion 26-19: to adjourn moved by Allan Callard

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM Eastern Time.

_____ Shelley Burns, President Date: _____	_____ Sondra Blank, Executive Administrator Date: _____
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