

Canadian Bridge Federation – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: November 17th, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM ET

Location: Online Meeting (Zoom)

MEETING TYPE: Regular

MINUTES TYPE: Proposed

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

II. Roll Call

	Tt ATTENDEES	Title	Status
SB	Shelley Burns	President, Director Zone VI	Present
AC	Allan Callard	Vice-President, Director - Zone I	Present
DH	Deb Harper	Director - Zone II	Present
TD	Terry Du	Director - Zone III	Present
MB	Marielle Decelles-Brentnall	Director - Zone IV	Present
LM	Lois Matton	Treasurer, Director - Zone V	Present
MH	Mike Hargreaves	Director at Large	Absent
XC	Xavier Combley	Director at Large	Present
SO	Sondra Blank	Exec Admin in Training	Present
LM	Louise Mascolo	Webmaster	Present

Guests: Nader Hanna 7:07PM – 7:37PM

Bronia Jenkins 7:12PM – 7:37PM

Andy Stark: 8:45PM – 9:05PM

III. Approval of October 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion 25-60: To accept the minutes of the October 13, 2025 Board Meeting.

Proposed by: Allan Callard

Seconded by: Marielle Decelles-Brentnall

Ayes: 7 **Carried unanimously**

IV. Ratification of Email Motions

Two motions have been circulated to the Board for consideration by email since the previous meeting. Both were reviewed and are hereby ratified for inclusion in the official record.

Motion 25-58 – Appointment of Treasurer and Vice President

That **Lois Matton** be appointed as **Treasurer** of the Canadian Bridge Federation, and that **Allan Callard** be appointed as **Vice President** of the Canadian Bridge Federation.

Moved by: Shelley Burns *Seconded by:* Lois Matton

Carried unanimously (via email vote)

Vote Record: In favour – Deb Harper, Allan Callard, Mike Hargreaves, Terry Du, Shelley Burns, Lois Matton, Marielle Decelles-Brentnall

Date of email vote: October 27, 2025

Motion 25-59 – Appointment of Director at Large

That **Xavier Combey** joins the Board as a **Director at Large**, effective immediately.

Moved by: Shelley Burns *Seconded by:* Allan Callard

Carried (via email vote)

Vote Record: In favour – Deb Harper, Allan Callard, Mike Hargreaves, Marielle Decelles-Brentnall, Shelley Burns, Lois Matton

Abstention: Terry Du

Date of email vote: October 27, 2025

Both email motions were formally ratified and recorded into the minutes.

V. NABF and WBF Representation

Highlights from Nader Hanna:

- Nader provided an extensive overview of the NABF and WBF's structure, history, and operations, including details about zone representation. As well as an update on his role as the CBF representative to the NABF Board and delegate to the WBF Board.
- Upcoming 2026 elections for NABF and WBF CBF Board to elect new representative

VI. WBF Dues & International Fund Update

Highlights from Bronia's Report:

- Significant fee reductions were negotiated jointly by Bronia on behalf of the CBF and USBF.
- The WBF has agreed to forgive all outstanding prior-year debts, resulting in the removal of the liability from the CBF financial statements.
- A new inter-organizational agreement, informally referred to as the "*Treaty of Versailles*," is currently being negotiated among the CBF, USBF, ACBL and the WBF.

VII. Update on Current Events / Upcoming Events

0-299 Online Team League Update:

- Drop-in style format confirmed, with a Q&A session following each match.
- Planning phase is progressing well and is expected to be completed within the next week.
- Shelley recommended postponing the B and C Trials to March 21-22 to give new players additional time to register and participate.

COPC:

- The Canadian Open Pairs Championships will be held on RealBridge, scheduled for April 25–26.

2026 Canadian Championships

- The Board approved proceeding with the payment for the Penticton championships in 2026.

Motion 25-61: To approve payment \$5630.00 + GST for the Penticton Championships 2026

Proposed by: Marielle Decelles-Brentnall

Seconded by: Deb Harper

Ayes: 8

Carried unanimously

2027 Canadian Championships

- There was preliminary discussion about the possibility of hosting the 2027 Championships in Quebec City.
- Discussion on whether the round robin should be held face to face or online. Players prefer face to face but it becomes very costly.
- Possibility of implementing invigilation/proctoring procedures for the round robin Open event when it is held online, as a potential measure to enhance fair play and reduce the risk of cheating.
- ACTION: Terry Du to prepare a detailed proposal outlining options and requirements for invigilation during online events.

VIII. Subcommittee Reports

Maple Leaf Games:

- The board is considering changing the current Friday schedule to a different day and/or time.
- Deb Harper will investigate alternative nights, with the goal of avoiding conflicts with existing club games.
- Decision made to combine the Mid-Flight and Top-Flight sections to ensure a more reasonable number of tables. Both flights will play 16 boards and cost \$5
- ACTION: Sondra will send an email to remind players about the combined session and qualifier.

Fundraiser (Feb. 23, 2026)

- Shelley reported ongoing challenges working with Tracy Bauer on event preparation.
- Shelley noted that they will begin sending personal emails to potential volunteers to ensure adequate support for the fundraiser.

Updates on Sustainability Fee

- Darlene Scott declined to implement the Sustainability Fee at the upcoming Toronto tournament.
- Allan will continue reaching out to tournament organizers for events scheduled through June, encouraging adoption of the fee.
- Shelley cautioned that the timing is sensitive, emphasizing the need for the CBF to demonstrate organizational value and relevance before requesting additional financial contributions from clubs or players.
- Deb suggested exploring the idea of offering the fee as a discount for CBF members, similar to how clubs verify ACBL membership for discounted entries.
- The Board reiterated its concerns, noting that this approach would likely create an administrative burden for clubs and tournament organizers and was therefore not recommended.

Financial Update

- Lois reported significant difficulties in managing the CBF's financial records following Sheila's resignation.
- She emphasized the need to raise the profile of financial oversight within the Board to ensure transparency, continuity, and long-term stability.
- Bank signing authority was finally secured on November 17
- GST returns are overdue, as are payroll remittances, both of which need attention as soon as the required records can be located.
- A preliminary budget is being prepared for the December Board meeting, making it essential that the meeting proceed as scheduled on December 10.

CBF Charitable Fund

- All financial and organizational records for the CBF Charitable Fund are believed to be stored in a physical box, but its current location is unknown.
 - Without access to these records, Lois has been unable to obtain the required bank signing authority for the Charitable Fund account
 - Gym Ong is urgently seeking an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to ensure the organization remains compliant with federal charitable regulations. The Board needs to set a date for the Charitable Fund AGM within the next three weeks to avoid jeopardizing the Fund's charitable registration status.
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IX. Junior Report - Andy Start

- Andy Stark outlined preliminary plans for the Junior Trials, which are expected to take place between Christmas and New Year's next year, following a format similar to the American model.
 - Terry raised concerns regarding player behavior and team dynamics within junior teams. Andy confirmed that these issues were acknowledged and have been incorporated into his written report.
 - The group also discussed membership verification for junior participants. Sondra noted that several junior players currently have expired memberships, and this will need to be addressed prior to registration.
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X. Proposal to Allocate General Fund Expenses to Junior Fund

- The Board discussed allocating 7.5% administrative costs to the Junior Fund.
- Shelley suggested that these charges could be applied retroactively to reflect past administrative work performed on behalf of the junior program.
- Lois questioned the continued value of maintaining separate International and General Funds, noting that the overlap in expenses may warrant a structural review.
- The Board agreed that further discussion is required regarding the potential combination or restructuring of these funds, and that input from the external accountant will be necessary.

Discussion: Deferred to the next Board Meeting.

XI. Hall of Fame Nominations

- The Hall of Fame committee nominations for Sandra and Doug Fraser,
- and for Barbara Seagram for a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Motion 25-62: To approve HoFC recommendation of Sandra and Doug Fraser for the Hall of Fame Award

Proposed by: Marielle Decelles-Brentnall

Seconded by: Xavier Combey

Ayes: 8 **Carried unanimously**

Motion 25-63: To approve HoFC recommendation of Barbara Seagram for the Lifetime Achievement Award

Proposed by: Deb Harperl

Seconded by: Terry Du

Ayes: 8 **Carried unanimously**

XII. Travel Policies

Juniors

- The board discussed policies for junior player expenses, with Terry suggesting a cap system with a bonus for playoff qualification

Board

- The Board discussed the possibility of holding the Board Meeting in person in Penticton.
- If held live, attendance would be optional for Board members.
- The Board also considered offering partial reimbursement of travel costs, rather than covering full expenses.

Deferred: Further discussion and a final decision will take place at the December meeting.

XII. Other Business

Richmond Pins

- At the end of 2025, we need to distribute the pins
- Catherine will send out an email with instructions for the pins

Junior Coordinator

- The Board proposed continuing with Andy Stark as Junior Coordinator for the upcoming year.
- They agreed to formalize Andy's \$2,000 annual stipend by issuing a written contract.
- ACTION: Lois to assist in drafting the new contract.

Funding for Juniors - YNABC

- The Junior Committee agreed to subsidize Casper Gu and three additional junior players to attend the NABC.
- The Board noted the need to develop a formal policy regarding the use of Erin Berry funds, to ensure clarity and consistency.
- Going forward, the Junior Committee must seek Board approval before spending any junior-related funds.

Motion 25-64: To adjourn the meeting.

Proposed by: Allan Callard

Seconded by: Lois Matton **Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM ET.

Next Meeting: December 8th, 2025 at 7:00PM ET