

## John Sharpe Receives the 2026 Jack Murphy Memorial Award

The Jack Murphy Memorial Award, first presented in 2013, commemorates an icon in Calgary's bridge history. The trophy is awarded for lifetime service to the Calgary bridge community.

Jack Murphy was not only a popular and accomplished player, but a dedicated volunteer for bridge. He served on the Unit 390 Board for nine years from 1963 to 1972, and also as the Alberta delegate to the District 18 Board. Nationally, Jack was the first Zone V representative on the Canadian Bridge Federation board, serving from 1971 to 1980. During this time, Jack was an important Western voice as the organization sought to expand throughout all regions of Canada. He served as CBF President in 1975 - 77.

Jack chaired two early Calgary Regional tournaments (in 1967 and 1970) and both were resounding successes. The table count in 1970 -- 2,195 tables -- still stands as a record for Alberta Regionals.

At the 2026 Annual General Meeting, the Jack Murphy Memorial Award was presented to **John Sharpe**.

John started playing bridge while studying at Bristol University. When he relocated to Wales, John began playing several nights a week at the South Glamorgan Bridge Club in Cardiff. He represented Wales as a Junior player.

John became an ACBL member in 1984 and is a Ruby Life Master.

John joined the Unit 390 Board in 2015 and has been on the Board ever since. In his first year, John served as vice president and he then took over the reins as president. During his 11 year tenure, he has been president for six years, and vice president for three.

Throughout that stretch, John has been a strong leader for the Unit, keeping the Board focused and well organized, handling a number of difficult issues, and always stepping up when called upon.

Thanks to his connections, the Board was able to hold meetings in the back room at the Inglewood Golf Club (this was, of course, before dedicated space became available at the Bridge Centre).

John also managed the first few Boot Camps (day-long intense bridge lessons) and Director Training Courses, all of which were held at Inglewood.

John is a most worthy recipient of the Jack Murphy Memorial Award. AGM attendees expressed their thanks to John for his service to bridge in Calgary with a huge round of applause.

Previous winners of the Jack Murphy Memorial Award include Delores Hedley, Steve Lawrence, Dave and Marilyn Swadron (joint winners), Judith and Nicholas Gartaganis (joint winners), and Barbara Webster.



Congratulations to John Sharpe ... the 2026 recipient of the Jack Murphy Award for lifetime service to the Calgary bridge community.