

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE I.B.P.A.

Paris, 30th October 2001

40 Members Present including : Andersson C (Swe); Arthur J. (UK); Benjamin A. (UK); De Groot L. (Net); Damiani J. (Fra); Dennison M. (UK); Diment C. (Australia); Ducheyne E. (Net); Dupont M (Fra); Gidwani D. (Ind); Gitelman F. (Can); Gordon T. (UK); Grosfils C. (Bel); Horton M. (UK); Jannersten P. (Swe); Jourdain P. (UK); van Cleeff J. (Net); D'Orsi E. (Bra); Lee R. (Can.); Manley B. (USA); Meyer J.P. (Fra); Moller S. (Den.); Pas M.van der (Net); Rand N. (Isr); Rigal B. (USA); Robson A. (UK); Rosenblum M. (Rus); Schipperheyn T. (Net); Serras J. (Bel); Tacchi R (Fra); Trent L. (USA); Truscott A. (USA).

1:Election of Chairman: Jean Paul Meyer was elected Chairman of the meeting and he introduced the members of the Executive to the meeting.

2:Apologies for absence: President Henry Francis due to a car accident: (Meyer reported that the news is good) Anna Gudge: pressure of work.

3:Homage to deceased members: Jourdain reported that, as far as he knew, the only deceased member since Maastricht is Peter Littlewood who had an accident at home. He was a British player who, with Graham Jepson, won several UK Pairs Championships and represented UK in Warsaw in the European Pairs reaching the final. The meeting stood in memory of past members.

4:Acceptance of minutes of Maastricht: The minutes had been published in the Bulletin. The meeting passed the motion of acceptance nem con

5:Officer reports: Reports from the officers were attached to the agenda and are summarised as follows:

President's report: Henry Francis:- He expressed sorrow not to be in Paris due to his accident but congratulated Jose Damiani on moving the Championships to Paris showing the world that terrorists will not stop bridge players. He thanked David Rex-Taylor for his services to I.B.P.A. and welcomed Anna Gudge as his replacement. He assured members that we are working to keep the 2002 budget within reason, helped by lower travel costs and cheaper printing costs.

Organisational President's report: Per Jannersten reported that he is working hard to introduce new technology and to modernise communication and organisation within I.B.P.A. and that members will see results next year.

Secretary's report: Maureen Dennison introduced herself to the meeting and hoped she would be a worthy successor to Evelyn Senn. Reporting on the E-bridge Clipping Competition, due to the lack of entries, the deadline has been extended to January 31st 2002 and the draw will be made at the Mixed Championships in Ostend in March. She requested that members send all clippings mentioning E-bridge to Dennison and an electronic copy to Eric Kokish of E-bridge

Treasurer's report: Christer Andersson reported that, as there were two major Championships in 2000 (Bermuda and Maastricht) a loss had been expected on the budget but due to savings on the Bulletin, the loss was half of that expected.

However, savings lost value because of the low value of the Euro and Swedish Krona. He recommended that the subscription remain at £40. With closer scrutiny of our expenditure and expected savings, he viewed 2002 with optimism.

Editor's report: Patrick Jourdain thanked all the members who had contributed to Bulletins. He reported on the problems of production and distribution due to the sudden

illness of Rex-Taylor and the loss of his computer files. He apologised to the few members who had thereby missed one or two Bulletins. He reported that Gudge had been formally appointed new Production Editor.

Liaison Officer's report: Panos Gerontopoulos reported that there had only been some minor problems this year, which were in Tenerife, and they were quickly solved. Otherwise we continue to get excellent support from the EBL and WBF. (Meyer thanked the WBF for their support.)

Membership Secretary's report: Stuart Staveley reported a slight decline in membership, due mainly to pruning the sponsored members but there are 26 fewer paying members since 1999. He is encouraged that we continue to attract new members. He listed 25 who have joined since summer 2000 and 12 who have renewed. (N.B. a further four journalists have joined in Paris)

6:Election of Officers: Panos Gerontopoulos, Jan van Cleeff and Chris Diment were nominated for a further three-year term. There being no other nominations they were elected nem con.

Jourdain asked the meeting to approve the Executive's nomination of David Rex-Taylor to be an Honorary Member in recognition of his long service and this was so ratified.

7:Approval of the Budget for 2002: Bulletin costs will be lower and extra savings are expected in that, as the European Championships are so close to the World Championships, your Executive decided there would be one meeting only each year, reducing the costs of travel and expenses. The Treasurer therefore recommended that the subscription remained at £40.

The Executive proposed that: - a) juniors under 21 who apply for full membership should have a reduced subscription of £25. b) That with effect from 1st January 2002 the joining fee should be waived. New members will pay to the nearest quarter for the remainder of the year in which they join and, after March, for the whole of the following year. Members who should have renewed will be asked to make their membership continuous by paying the whole of the current year and receiving the back numbers. If they lapsed for more than a year they would be treated as new members. The number of Bulletins received by non-payers would be reduced to January and February at most.

When questioned from the floor, Meyer explained this is to stop journalists joining just for a Championship. The AGM were asked to approve these matters and they did so Nem Con.

Ron Tacchi asked about savings for taking the Bulletin from the Internet. Meyer reported that it was under discussion and the Executive would present a proposal in Montreal. He expected the saving to be in the order of £4 on the annual subscription.

8:**Handbook:** Ron Tacchi has updated the Handbook. It will be updated with this year's awards and then printed by Jannersten Forlag and Cap Gemini and then distributed by Chess & Bridge. Members should receive their Handbook within the next 8 weeks.

9:**Awards:** The awards were presented as reported elsewhere in the Bulletin. Accepting his award as I.B.P.A. Personality of the year, Jose Damiani said he accepted the award with honour but he did not deserve it alone. Whilst deciding whether or not to cancel or to move to Paris, he took advice

from Journalists, Officials and players but it had to be his decision. However he shared the award with his colleagues and workers and he will tell them so.

He thanked journalists for their help and stressed we need articles and, whilst it is difficult, preferably as front-page news.

10:**Any other business:** As no other business was raised, the meeting was closed. The next AGM will be held at the Olympiad in Montreal.