

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION Montreal – August 2002

**Members present** including Aagaard T(Den):Alder P(USA):Allison K(USA):Back S(Ger):Bystroam R(Swe): Carruthers J(Can):van Cleef(Net):Dennison M(Eng):Diment C(Australia) Dowling S(Ire):Ducheyne E(Net):Flodqvist S-O(Swe):Forrester T(Eng) Francis H(USA):Gordon T(Eng):Hallen H-O(Swe):Hiron M(Spain):Jannersten P(Swe):Jourdain P(Wal):Leckie S(Sco):Maas A(Net):Meyer JP(Fra):Rues T(Can): Rigal B(USA):Robson A(Eng):Rosenblum M(Rus):Serras J(Belg):Tacchi R(Fra)Truscott A(USA):Vriend B(Net):

**:Apologies for absence:** President Henry Francis, welcomed members and gave apologies for absence from Albert Benjamin (Sco) Dilip Gidwani (Ind) and Christer Andersson (Swe). A message was also received from Tommy Sandsmark, President Emeritus (Nor) thanking us for our “miss you” card and regretting he was unable to be with us due to ill health.

**2: Homage for deceased members:** Patrick Jourdain informed the meeting that since the last AGM we had lost two distinguished members. Jean-Marc Roudinesco was a prolific French author. He went to Malta immediately after surgery for cancer and, against the advice of his doctors, he played in the Senior European Teams winning the Gold Medal. He was too ill to go to the Paris Championships and died on the last day of 2001.

Our second loss was Jo van den Borre from Belgium who was one of our longest serving members. Jourdain asked the company to be upstanding in memoriam.

**3: Acceptance of minutes from Paris:** The Minutes from the AGM, Paris, 2001 were presented to the meeting and accepted nem. con.

**4: Officer's reports:** Reports from the Executive officers were attached to the agenda and are summarized as follows:

**President:** Henry Francis:- As ill health prevents Jean Paul Meyer from taking over as President, Francis is standing for another term. He introduced and welcomed our new Bulletin editor, John Carruthers who will be responsible for keeping the website up to date with all new information, facts, results and hands sent in by members.

Many answered our questionnaire. In response the Bulletin will try to print some more basic hands to give better column material.

He reminded members that they can access the Handbook from the Internet.

**Executive Vice-President:** Jean Paul Meyer:- He informed the meeting that there were several good applicants for the job of Editor to replace Jourdain who is retiring after 20 years. Meyer felt sure Carruthers of Canada was the right choice. As well as being a high level bridge player, experienced as a journalist and has computer expertise, he has enthusiasm.

**Treasurer:** Christer Andersson:- In spite of a reduced cash flow in 2001, there was a surplus of US\$782 mainly due to Presidential expenses being less than budget.

**Organisation Vice President:** Per Jannersten: Zonal representatives: Julius Butkow:- S.Africa: Henry Francis-Zone 2: Ernesto d'Orsi-zone 3+5 Paul Marston-zone 7: Nissan Rand-Mid.East

The Handbook, published in the Spring is available on the web (password ihccaT). It is expected that all future up-dates will be on the website. He asked for active co-operation of members with the new editor so that he is able to give a better service to the members.

**Membership secretary:** Stuart Staveley: The membership appears to have stabilised about the 400 mark after some significant falls in recent years. The numbers are:- Honour 14: Sponsored 8: Full & Associates 396: Total 418

With credit card payment now established he asked that members would be sure to renew by the end of January (see item 6). Late payments add considerably to admin costs and workload.

Staveley suggested that with areas of the world suffering financial crises, the IBPA should offer sponsored membership on a temporary basis.

**Bulletin Editor (retiring):** Patrick Jourdain:- Stepping down after 20 years as editor, Jourdain thanked all the members for their support. There is only one paid contributor and the Bulletin relies on contributions from members. When

David Rex-Taylor resigned last year through ill health, we were fortunate to find Anna Gudge as replacement Production Editor and she is also looking after the membership files. He reported that there was not a Bulletin in April when his computer was destroyed by a power surge but there would be two Bulletins in September. He welcomed the new editor.

**Bulletin Editor:** John Carruthers:- He felt it was a great honour and pleasure to take over from Jourdain. He asked the meeting to join with him to thank him for doing such a wonderful job over two decades.

Carruthers lives in Toronto and works as a project manager in computer systems for the provincial government.

He hopes to widen the scope of the Bulletin – to report on all WBF Zonal Championship as well as more news, hands and results from round the world.

**Secretary:** Maureen Dennison:- She reported that there was very little response to clipping competitions but asked that journalists send any mention of a sponsor in their columns and she would pass it on.

The EBL, who are very supportive of our organisation, have asked that we give as much pre-publicity as possible to the inaugural Trans-National Open European Championships next year in Menton. Meyer is to produce archive copy articles from the bi-annual European Pairs and Mixed Championships for the Bulletin to give journalists material a basis for articles. We hope to hold a prize draw at the end of April. Every clipping mentioning the event will go into the draw.

**5: Approval of the amended Constitution:** The meeting ratified the amendments to job descriptions as published in the new Handbook and the abolition of zonal collectors nem con.

**6: Approval of Accounts & Budget for 2003:** The auditor's acceptance of the accounts for 2001 was tabled together with summary budgets for 2002 & 2003 and accepted nem con.

It was proposed that the subscription for 2003 would be £42 and for members who opted to forego a hard copy bulletin would have 1/3 reduction and pay £28. Those members opting for the lower subscription would have to pay by the end of December to take advantage of this offer. This motion was passed nem. con.

**7: Election of Officers:** There being no new nominations from the floor, the meeting approved election of:- President - Henry Francis: Chairman - Alan Truscott: Executive Vice-President - Patrick Jourdain: Organisational

Vice-President - Per Jannesten: Secretary - Maureen Dennison: Treasurer – Christer Andersson: Hon General Counsel – Bill Pencharz: Auditor – Julius Butkow:

**Executive:** Re-standing following completion of three year term: Julius Butkow: Barry Rigal. Nomination for three year term – John Carruthers. Nomination for one year term – Jean- Paul Meyer.

**8: Annual Awards:** Mrs. Rosenkranz presented the award for the best auction to Anton Maas & Bep Vriend, (Net) reported by Jos Jacobs (Net).

Tony Rues presented the OKBridge Award for a Junior to Igor Curlin on behalf of Mikhail Krasnosselski (Rus) reported by Michael Rosenblum. The Digital Fountain Hand of the Year Award, sponsored by Rose Meltzer, was presented to Jens Auken on behalf of Sebastian Kristensen (Den) reported by Otto Charles Pedersen (Den.) The Fr. Joseph Hahn & Arthur Kong Award for Best Defence, sponsored by Rita Shugart was presented to Tony Forrester (Eng.) reported by Andrew Robson (Eng).

Patrick Jourdain was named Personality of the Year and Stuart Staveley was voted Honorary Member, both in recognition of their long service to IBPA. See the September Bulletin for full details of the Awards.

**9: Any other Business:** Ron Tacchi asked whether our Membership Secretary would go onto Internet. Jannersten said it was unlikely but that Anna Gudge was acting as his secretary for electronic communications and that they worked closely together. Therefore the membership should not be disadvantaged.

The meeting was closed.