

Annual General Meeting of the International Bridge Press Association

Monday 1st November 2004, 09.00-10.15

Grand Cevahir Hotel, Istanbul

Attending: Marijke Blanken (Netherlands), Peter Burrows (England), John Carruthers (Canada), Irena Chodorowska (Poland), Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands), Simon Cocheme (England), Jose Damiani (France), Chris Diment (Australia), Mario Dix (Malta), Seamus Dowling (Ireland), Kay Downes (Ireland), Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece), Tony Gordon (England), Hans Olof Haleen (Sweden), Britt Jannersten, Per Jannersten (Sweden), Alf Helge Jensen (Norway), Patrick Jourdain (Wales), Krastyn Kavlahov (Montenegro), Radek Kielbasinski (Poland), Eric Kokish (Canada), Ray Lee (Canada), Peter Lund (Denmark), Brent Manley (USA), Goran Mattsson (Germany), Jose Oliveira (Portugal), Margaret Parnis England (Malta), Nissan Rand (Israel), Barry Rigal (USA), (Malta), Gianarrigo Rono (Italy), David Stern (Australia), Jan Swann (Netherlands), Ron Tacchi (England), Boye Brogeland (Norway), Erik Saelensminde (Norway), Paul Thurston (Canada), Barbara Travis (Australia), Alan Truscott (USA), John Wignall (N.Z.)

Apologies: Christer Andersson (Sweden), Dilip Gidwani (Ghana), Stuart Staveley (Scotland)

1. President Patrick Jourdain took the chair and called the meeting to order.

4. Officers' Reports:

President's Report:- Patrick Jourdain

My first year as President has been a relatively quiet one. On the key matter of sponsors there has been some progress. We have lost one, for the Junior Award, but have reasonable prospects of replacing that next year. We have gained an important new one, very appropriate to our function, in the Masterpoint Press Book of the Year Award, signed up for three years, and we welcome the company's President, Ray Lee, both as a member and sponsor. We are also grateful to our distinguished panel, Jean-Paul Meyer, P-O Sundelin, John Carruthers and Bruce Cook, in the arduous task of choosing the winner.

The Best Played Hand of the Year may have changed its name, to C & R Motors, but the sponsor remains the same, Rose Meltzer, the only woman to have won the Bermuda Bowl. George Rosenkranz has been the sponsor of our Romex Award for Best Bid Hand of the Year for many years and we thank him for that. The ITES Award for Best Defence is already signed up for next year, and we are grateful to Dilip Gidwani, a member of our Executive for that.

In respect of our annual grant from the WBF I would like to thank them, and Jose Damiani in particular, publicly for this. In many sports the relationship between the Authorities and the Press is often stormy. In bridge it has been a good one, though we are prepared to defend the independence of our members when needed.

I am also grateful to our own officers and executive for their work. We missed Maureen in Monte Carlo and are pleased to see her here in Istanbul. Her daughter, Jean, does an excellent job producing the printed Bulletin each month, updating the membership file, and sending e-mails to those with e-mail. Per is responsible for the website, and Stuart Staveley, our Membership Secretary has been a faithful servant for more years than we can recall. Our Treasurer, Christer Andersson of Sweden deserves a special mention. He has sent an email saying his job is taking up so much time that he wishes to give up the reins. He will stay on for as long this year as we require but no longer. So when it comes to the elections we plan to re-elect him but suggest a new name to take over later in the year.

A continuing concern is a declining membership. This is connected to the growth in the Internet. Our members find it easier to communicate, but non-members find it easier to obtain the information they need without joining IBPA. So only the journalists who come to the Championships find membership so essential.

Internet membership, and reducing our costs to match the decline the subscriptions. This year the method of paying renewals for internet members was not easy to follow, and as a consequence we had an unexpectedly high number. Your Executive has responded by bringing in the Internet version of the Bulletin, substantially reducing the price of who wanted to renew but did not actually find it easy to do so. Fortunately, at Malmo, we picked up 30 of these lost souls, but, of course, that gives us a European bias that we hoped to correct here. I welcome a dozen new members here, but there remains great areas of the world where we are poorly represented.

I want to thank the Swedish Federation for providing an excellent Press Room in Malmo, with non-members catered for elsewhere, though a flaw in security led to the loss of two laptops. Here in Istanbul the Press Room is very crowded and the Press Room Manager has a fulltime job keeping the non-journalists away from the facilities for the Press. We think he does a good job, and thank Jan Swann for his work.

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate for acceptance by acclaim, the name of the person your Executive has chosen to become an Honour Member of IBPA. He is rather young for this honour, but we do actually hope he will

2. Jourdain paid homage to deceased members, Niels Jenssen (Sweden) and Marie Gleeson and asked the members to be upstanding for a minute's silence.

3. The minutes of the AGM held in Monte Carlo in November 2003 were approved as published in the Bulletin.

survive for many more years. The certainty is that he has worked very hard for many years for IBPA, denying himself the certainty of many prizes in the meantime. I refer to our indefatigable Awards Chairman, Barry Rigal.

Organisational Vice President's Report: Per Jannersten

In summary it has been a routine year, keeping our Internet services going, the web page reasonable updated, backing up Jean Tyson etc. This is a good sign in the sense that Jean, Stuart Staveley and John Carruthers are self-propelling. But it also implies that I should have time to make IBPA more Internet oriented. The only step taken in that direction (during the past year) is the searchable database where you can find a fellow member even if you have forgotten his name. This would be easier if we had a face to put to each name. We hope to introduce photos next year. Inch' Allah

Treasurer's Report: Christer Andersson

During 2003, our Association made a surplus of US\$ 910 although we received less funding from sponsors of Awards than expected and no income from advertisement in the IBPA Bulletin. Changing printer for the Bulletin however, more than compensated for the reduced income. Controlling the expenditure in the future will be the way forward to balance the budget.

Secretary's Report: Maureen Dennison

At a Press meeting at the European Championships in Malmo, a number of points were raised for further discussion. Foremost was the question of security in the Pressroom. Per Jannersten has taken the matter up with the authorities and asked that in further there should always be a locked cupboard for overnight storage of such as laptops. He was also to ask for extra software capability at future Championships. The announcement of the new Book award was made and members were informed that anyone could nominate a new book. This includes non-members and publishers.

Single accommodation at Championships can be expensive and it was proposed that, if members want to share or have knowledge of cheaper hotels/apartments at a venue, they could inform me and I would be a clearinghouse between members.

The new arrangements for publishing and sending out the Bulletins is going smoothly and Jean Tyson is keeping the Membership Handbook on line up to date. It is therefore vital that members let us know changes of address, email etc.

5. APPOINTEES' REPORTS

WBF & EBL Liaison Officer: Panos Gerontopoulos

I am pleased to report that relations between the IPBA and the WBF & EBL are running smoothly and there were no problems or difficulties during this past year.

Bulletin Editor: John Carruthers

After a somewhat stormy first year, I am happy to report that my second year as Editor went along quite smoothly despite some technical difficulties. During that year we changed Production Managers to Jean Tyson who is our Secretary's daughter. Jean was very quick off the mark and has performed her duties very admirably. We have also changed printers twice; the first time to a printer in Norway in the gap between Production Managers, then the second time to a printer in England to be close to Jean.

We have had reports of one kind or another from all eight WBF Zones in the past year but submissions from Zones 1 & 2 continue to comprise the larger part of the material in the Bulletin despite my entreaties. However, Daily Bulletins from tournaments around the world and matches of interest online have helped this considerably. Nevertheless, I would like to appeal to all members, especially those in the non-European and North American Zones to make a point of submitting at least one deal per year for publication.

Membership Secretary: Stuart Staveley

Membership report 2004:-

<i>Honour</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Sponsored</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Full</i>	<i>322</i>

Stuart Staveley reported a further fall of 9% in membership, disproportionately in USA & the Low Countries and a marked decline in new members. Approximately half the membership has opted for Internet Bulletins but demands for the printed version seems likely to remain around the present level.

NEW:- Australia: D Browne; Austria: M Sechifko; Canada: J Silver; France: A Fabre; Germany:

G Mattson, F Weber; Greece: D Ballas; India: H Deora; Italy: G Resta; Nigeria: F Erinle; Norway: T

Brogeland, G Kolsberg, K Kristiansen; Netherlands: M van Beijsterveldt; Sweden: T Larsson, A Wilkner;

Taiwan: K-Y Chen; U.K.: J de Botton, M Brunner, M Kane; U.S.A.A Levy;

REJOINED:- P Gue (Australia); F Palma (Italy); Dr P

Erich, J Prinsen (Netherlands); K Arnesen

(Norway); A Prados (Spain); J Granwald

(Sweden); S Eginton (UK)

6. Jourdain drew the attention of members to the summary of accounts attached to the agenda. However

any questions would have to be referred to Andersson. He reported that at this time we have no sponsor for

the Junior award but the other sponsors have renewed though Rose Meltzer had changed the title of her award to C&R Motors. It was decided nem con that the subscription should remain unchanged for 2005.

However it is essential that we recruit new members and contact lapsed members, a number of which are in the USA. Truscott volunteered to do so if he was given a list of such journalists.

7. Annual Awards:

The award for the **Master Point Press Book of the Year** was 'Play or Defend?' by Julian Pottage (England) was presented by Ray Lee and accepted by Peter Burrows on behalf of the author. Pottage emailed that he felt it a great honour to receive this award knowing that his book faced stiff competition from legends such as Eddie Kantar. He wished to thank those who played a key part in making Play or Defend possible, especially Ray Lee and Andrew Diosy for the book's design and Maureen Dennison for her work in checking the manuscript and making many valuable suggestions. Lastly he thanked William Bailey for it was his Deep Finesse software that gave him the confidence to attempt a project that depends on precise analysis.

Cezary Baliki (Poland) won **C&R Motors Best Played hand**. The awards were presented by Alan Truscott to Irena Chodorowski on his behalf and to Eric Kokish (Canada), the winning journalist.

The awards for **ITES Best Defended Hand**, won by Peter Gill and reported by Ron Klinger, both of Australia, was presented to Barbara Travis on their behalf by Barry Rigal.

The **Romex Best Bid Hand** award was presented to Boye Brogeland & Eric Saelensminde (Norway) by Alan Truscott and Brogeland also accepted the award for the journalist, Jon Sveindal (also Norway).

The **Best Junior Deal** was won by Gilad Offir and reported by non-member Michael Barel, both of Israel, and it was accepted on their behalf by Nissen Rand from Per Jannesten. As his prize, Michael Barel receives free membership of the IPBA for 2005.

Patrick Jourdain present the award for the **IBPA Personality of the Year** to Radoslaw Kielbasinski in recognition of his work for the Polish Bridge Federation in general and in particular, his wonderfully successful work for junior bridge. Jourdain pointed out the average age of the Polish NBO is 43 and going down due to Kielbasinski's success in getting bridge recognised as a sport and taught in an increasing number of schools. Jose Damiani, WBF President, expressed his pleasure that the IBPA should honour a person who has done so much for bridge in his country and he felt the Award was well deserved.

Barry Rigal informed the meeting that he tended to get the candidates for awards from the Bulletin and that if a hand is good enough for an award, it should be in the Bulletin. He further stated that any journalist,

attending a Championship, should have at least one good deal to submit to the Bulletin.

8. Nominations: These were published in Bulletin 476. While there were no other nominations, Christer Andersson, due to pressure of work, wishes to resign as our Treasurer though he is willing to continue for a maximum of one year. Jourdain asked the meeting to vote for Mario Dix (Malta) as Treasurer Elect as well as voting on the existing members of the Executive. All were re-elected nem con and ratified Jourdain as President.

9. Any Other Business. David Stern asked how much our Sponsors are expected to pay for each award and was informed that it is \$1000 per year. He also brought up the matter of payment of dues, pointing out that sending credit details by email is not secure. Subs could be paid by fax to Dennison or Staveley but members want to be able to work electronically. Jourdain informed the meeting that we are building up a secure bank of credit card details and each year, we are asking for authority to renew subscriptions and this is one way forward. Stern, however, felt that the IBPA should subscribe to a secure service for paying on line such as Paypal. Jannersten promised to look into the matter.

Kokish expressed difficulty in finding the Handbook on the website, which is not under the word 'handbook.' Also, even though a member might know the password, they had not been informed that they also have to add Handbook at the second prompt. This should be made clearer.

There being no other business, Jourdain declared the meeting closed.