

MINUTES OF THE IBPA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 30th June 2004 – Malmo

Present: *Chair:* Patrick Jourdain (President); Maureen Dennison (Secretary); Christer Anderson (Swe); Jan van Cleeff (Net); Seamus Dowling (Ire); Kay Downes (Ire); Tony Gordon (UK); Paul Hackett (UK); Hans-Olof Hallen (Swe); Per Jannersten (Swe); Barry Rigal (USA); Stuart Staveley (UK); Jon Sveindal (Nor); Jan Swaan (Net); Peter Ventura (Swe).

1: *Apologies for absence* received from Peter Lund & Herman de Wael

2: *Press Room Security:* The need for better security of the Press Room at Championships was discussed following the theft of two laptop computers. A similar incident had occurred in Montreal. Jannersten is to press for lockers or a lockable cabinet for overnight security. Another possibility was for laptops to be chained to the tables. van Cleeff noted that the Hospitality desk had a secure place for cash and might be prepared to keep the laptops overnight. This could be an option at future venues. It was not a practical solution for journalists to have to take their laptops back to hotels each evening, nor would this solve the daytime problem. (Organisers of future Pressrooms to note.)

3: *Membership renewals:* Some 30 members had paid their subs in Malmo, and 5 new members recruited. When Jourdain attempted to contact non-paying members for 2004, he found that more than 20 email addresses were no longer valid. Our Secretary, Maureen Dennison, would write to the land address of each of these members. It should be stressed in the Bulletin that members must inform us when they change their email address. To facilitate renewals, it was decided that an electronic renewal form be attached to the December Bulletin as well as a hard copy sent to those receiving the printed copy. Bank transfer when tried some years ago proved too expensive and Staveley informed us that he had no means of telling who had transferred funds. And the bank did not help. Staveley already has a number of credit card details on file and he is authorised each year by those members to take their subscriptions. We should try and extend this practice. A secure person is needed to receive these details electronically who would then send the details on to the Membership Secretary. Jean Tyson was suggested as a possible intermediary. Staveley reported that 80% of our membership now pay by credit card.

4: *Book Award:* Jourdain announced there is to be a new award “The Masterpoint Press Book of the Year”. Ray Lee would sponsor this for three years. Authors, publishers or members may nominate books either in the Bulletin or direct to the Awards Chairman, Barry

Rigal. New bridge books published in 2003 and the first half of 2004 would be eligible for the first Award in Istanbul. The Award is open to authors who are not IBPA members. The prize to a winning member who is an IBPA member would be US \$500. Should a non-member win, they will receive \$300 + three years membership of IBPA with printed Bulletin. To publicise this, we ask members who have had dealings with a publisher to tell them about it.

5: *Accommodation:* As most Championships seem to be in holiday resorts, Dennison suggested members might like to share holiday accommodation, self-catering flats etc. The suggestion was made IBPA should add a chat room to the IBPA web site for journalists to exchange such information. Alternatively, they could email Dennison their willingness to share and she would pass on names to each other. Jourdain also suggested that if members had found good, cheaper accommodation, they could inform Dennison so that information could be passed on.

6: *AOB:* Gordon brought the attention of the meeting to the limitations of the software on the Press Room desktops. Any additional installation, such as Adobe Reader, was blocked and there were a limited number of connections resulting in Internet users being cut off as there was too much load. He asked for more and better software at future events. Jannersten explained there was only one server for Internet and he would stress that in future, two were needed, one for the various Viewgraphs, and one for other use. Hallen brought up the matter of media coverage which, he said, had been very poor in Sweden. He asked if the IBPA could assist organisers in getting better press coverage. Jourdain noted that the Assistant Press Room manager, Anders Wirgren, sends out a regular press release. Van Cleeff felt marketing should be done by the organisers and not sure how we could help further. Dowling pointed out that when the European Championships were in Killarney, TV gave a total coverage of 2 ½ minutes!

It was announced that the AGM would be in Istanbul on the second Monday or Tuesday.

The Meeting closed with an announcement about the Journalists Pairs.