

Annual General Meeting of the International Bridge Press Association

Wednesday 2nd November 2005 – 0900-10.00

Conference Centre, Estoril

Attending: Phillip Alder (USA), Christer Andersson (Swe), John Carruthers (Can), Irena Chodorowska (Pol), Jan van Cleeff (Net), Simon Cocheme (Eng), Donna Compton (USA), Maureen Dennison (Eng), Seamus Dowling (Ire), Mario Dix (Malta), Paul Erich (Net), Panos Gerontopoulos (Gre), Joan Gerard (USA), Dilip Gidwani (Ind), Tony Gordon (Eng), Lex de Groot (Net), Hans-Olof Hallen (Swe), Britt Jannersten, Per Jannersten, (Swe), Patrick Jourdain (Wal), Brent Manley (USA), Paul Marston (Aus), Goran Mattsson (Ger), Steen Moller (Den) Ernesto d' Orsi (Bra), Margaret Parnis-England (Malta), Nissan Rand (Isr), Max Rebattu (Net), Barry Rigal (USA), Brian Senior (Eng), Barnet Shenkin (USA), Pieter Spruit (Net), Stuart Staveley (UK), Ron Tacchi (Fra), Robert Todd (USA), Anna-Maria Torlontano (It)

1: President Patrick Jourdain took the chair and called. members to be upstanding for a minutes
silence.

the meeting to order.

2: Jourdain paid homage to deceased members, (Alan published in the

Truscott (USA) and Jody Latham (USA)) and asked

4: Officers' Reports:

President: Patrick Jourdain

This year has been one of saying farewell to a group of people who have been mainstays of our organisation for many years. Prime mention must go to the passing of Alan Truscott. We are instituting an occasional special achievement award for people who deserve recognition by the Press but do not fit our regular and sponsored awards to be called The Alan Truscott Memorial Award. We are to consider the possibility that in future years this might go to a bridge columnist of any language.

Next, after many years Henry Francis, our Chairman, has retired and we salute him in his absence.

Stuart Staveley has been our membership secretary for twenty years, with his late wife filling the role before him. Stuart was elected an honour member in Montreal and will continue to assist us.

Two other changes are prompted by promotions outside bridge. Christer Andersson, our Treasurer, has a new role in European Food Safety. He resigned a year ago, but actually has continued to work for us all this year. Christer still intends to come to European and World Championships and therefore later I would like to nominate him to continue on the Executive. We must also congratulate our Organisational Vice-President, Per Jannersten, on his election as a Governor of the Rotary Club. He is proposed for the less onerous, though more prestigious, role of Chairman.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking IBPA's sponsors. We receive an annual grant from the WBF, and five of our Awards have sponsors: Rose Meltzer for Hand of the Year, George Rosenkranz, our longest-standing supporter for Best Auction, Dilip Gidwani via his company ITES for the Best Defence, Ray Lee who joined us last year for Book of the Year, and this year, our new supporter, Ernesto d'Orsi, for the Junior Award. Thank you all. Of these Rosenkranz is our longest-standing sponsor and I now invite you to approve him as our honour member for 2005. (Approved by acclaim.)

To conclude I want to thank our hard-working Secretary, Maureen, and her daughter Jean, who so efficiently handles the data-base and the despatch of printed Bulletins.

Organisational Vice President: Per Jannersten:

I feel it is a good time to leave my office as Organisational Vice President because most things related to our administration are running smoothly. There is a wise Swedish saying, "None mentioned, none forgotten," but I feel that I must mention John Caruthers who completes the Bulletin promptly and Katie (John's wife) who distributes the internet version equally promptly. If you do not know who Jean Tyson is, it is because she is managing the database without problem. And Hawkeye – Stuart Staveley – spots any mistake in the unlikely event that there is one. Finally, I wish to thank Christer Andersson who has been self-propelling and never caused us any headaches. **Uppsala 2005**

Secretary: Maureen Dennison

There has been very little work for your secretary since my daughter has been in charge of changes of Members' details, e-mail addresses, etc. However, I would stress it is important to inform either Jean or me, or your Bulletins are likely to go astray.

4: Appointees' Reports.

Stuart Staveley: Membership Secretary:

Report 2005:- Honour Members - 14: Sponsored- 6: Full 327: Total 347

It is pleasing to be able to report that the gradual decline in our membership, which has been a feature of recent years, has at last been halted. New members recruited since last October number 23 and a further 7 lapsed members have rejoined. More significantly, non-renewals during 2005 have been at a historically low level. This may almost certainly be ascribed in large measure to the fact that new technology has greatly simplified the procedure for the payment of annual subscriptions. The use of credit cards by those living outside the sterling area is now all but universal: and in 2005 for the first time, extensive use was made of secure E-mail for authorising payment. The proportion of those opting for the Internet only version of the monthly Bulletin has risen slightly and now stands at 55% of the total.

New Members: AUSTRALIA: Nick Fahrer - BELGIUM: Rosaline Barendregt - GERMANY: Fikret Dogan - IRELAND: Dr David Jackson - ISRAEL: Michael Barel, Anda Enciu - MALTA: Mrs Margaret Parnis-England - NETHERLANDS: Enrico Leufkens - NORWAY: Alf Helge Jensen, Tormod Roren - POLAND: Pawel Jarzabek, Piotr Lutostanski, Mrs Ela Wojciechowska - UK: Mrs Linda Greenland - USA: Bruce Ferguson, Mrs Rose Meltzer, Alan Sontag, Robert Todd, Howard Weinstein, Steve Weinstein, Roy Welland, Sheri Winestock

New Members Joining at Estoril: AUSTRALIA: Bruce Neil - ENGLAND: Mike Whittaker - NETHERLANDS: Hans Metselaar, Peter Sisselaar, Pieter Spruit - NEW ZEALAND: Michael Cornell - POLAND: Krzyztof Jassem - PORTUGAL: Antonio Eanes - USA: Bobby Levin - VENEZUELA: Franco Gusso.

Rejoined Members: AUSTRIA: Robert Franzel - ISRAEL: David Birman - NETHERLANDS: Jos Prinsen
UK: David Greenwood, Phil King - USA: G S Jade Barrett, Roy Green.

5: Treasurer Christer Andersson: The accounts for the year ending 31st December 2004 and the budget and proposed subscriptions for the year 2006 are attached to the agenda.

In economical terms, last year was a good year for IBPA, as the organization had a surplus of around US\$ 10.000. This surplus was due to the combination of unexpectedly high incomes, low expenditure, and delayed investments. Thus, we received the contribution of US\$1000 from one of our Award sponsor's early in 2004 instead of the year before, and many of our members paid their annual membership fee for 2005 already in 2004. This early payment was US\$4000 more than usual, and may result in a reduction in Membership incomes for the running year. Around US\$7000 had been budgeted for investments in the IBPA website to produce a platform with latest material not yet published in the IBPA Bulletin but available for members to be used. This platform was not launched in 2004.

If our new Treasurer is able to keep the disbursements low also during the coming year, I feel that Members can be satisfied with the economical status of the association. However, as I have pointed out before, it would be advantageous if the reduction in the membership cadre could be stopped and membership increased. I wish the organisation good luck in the future and suggest an unchanged Membership fee for 2006, that is GB£25 for the Web Bulletin and GB£ 44 for the printed IBPA Bulletin.

6: The motion that the subscriptions remain unchanged for 2006 was approved nem con.

7: Election of officers: Jourdain asked the meeting to ratify the following changes in duties of the Executive as below.

In Post until 2006: President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales); Executive Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands); Secretary: Maureen Dennison (England).

New elections: Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden); Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani (Ghana); Treasurer: Mario Dix (Malta). These elections were approved nem con by the meeting.

Re-appointed: Honorary General Counsel: Bill Pencharz (England); Honorary Auditor: Julius Butkow (RSA).

Automatically continuing without election are the President Emeriti: Tommy Sandsmark (Norway); Henry Francis (USA).

Election of Executive members: Executive members whose term expires and are available for a

3-year term to 2008: Julius Butkow (RSA); John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA).

Already elected to 2006: Dilip Gidwani (Ghana); Peter Lund (Denmark); Ron Tacchi (France).

As Mr. Gidwani had been elected to be an officer a vacancy arises for a 1-year term and it was proposed that Christer Andersson should be elected. These four elections were approved.

Already elected to 2007: Chris Diment (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA).

Note: Appointees in post: Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA); Editor: John Carruthers (Canada). Membership Secretary

Stuart Staveley (Scotland) is retiring, though he will continue to assist the new Treasurer who will take on both functions

8: 2005 IBPA Awards: The President read a citation (see elsewhere in the Bulletin for details of all Awards).

Fred Gitelman thanked the meeting for his award and praised both his wife and his associate, Uday Ivatory, for their support and help in making Bridge Base Online such a success and wanted to thank them. He informed us that they receive, on average, 400,000 log-ons per day, some from countries where it is illegal to play bridge. Those logging on range from 8 years up to 100 years old. He also estimated that 10% of their players had ONLY played on line, never at the table. They are doing their best to encourage these people to play off-line as well. He felt there was still room for improvement.

9: AOB: Rigal noted that IBPA had very few young members and we should try and encourage them to write about bridge. Robert Todd (USA) pointed out that many new journalists only reported on line and suggested we should make an effort to contact them and encourage them to join.

The venue for the next AGM was discussed. As the next world event in Verona is early, it would leave less time to decide on the

Award winners so it was decided that, whilst the AGM would be in Verona in June at the 8th World Championships, the Executive could decide to present the Awards at the European Team Championships in Warsaw in August. This would allow brilliancies from the World Championships in Verona to be considered.

Schedules at championships now made it very difficult to find time for the IBPA Journalist Pairs, but the President agreed to keep the matter in mind.