

IBPA Awards Meeting, Warsaw

Present: Chair: P. Jourdain (Wales); Secretary: M. Dennison (Eng); Treasurer: M. Dix (Malta); Awards Chairman: B. Rigal (USA) plus 20 members
C. Andersson (Sweden); D. Auby (Sweden); S. Auken (Ger); M. Connor (Ire); R. Donkersloot (Net); A. Gordon (Eng); M. Horton (Eng); A. Kooijman (Net); S. Latala (Pol); G. Mattson (Ger); M. Parnis-England (Malta); W. Pencharz (Eng); N. Rand (Isr); M. Rebattu (Net); T. Schipperheyn (Net); P. Spruit (Net); J. Swaan (Net); A. Trippaers (Net); A. Varfolomejev (Ukraine); H. de Wael (Belgium).

1: The Chairman declared the meeting open and members present paid homage to those recently deceased.

2: The AGM in Verona had authorized this meeting to examine and approve the accounts for the year ended 31st 2005 as audited accounts had not been available in Verona. The IBPA Treasurer, Mario Dix, presented the accounts drawing attention to two presentational matters compared with the draft shown in Verona. He read the Auditor's report and the meeting unanimously adopted the accounts.

3: Five new members had already been recruited in Warsaw. Jan Swaan, Press Room manager, was congratulated on his efforts in this respect.

4: The IBPA Awards Chairman, Barry Rigal took the floor to announce the Awards. As only one winner was present in Warsaw the IBPA Executive had decided to present photographs of the winners and the deals that won the Awards on the projector.

The President later congratulated the local computer expert who did this, on an excellent presentation. The one winner present was Sabine Auken, winning author for Masterpoint Press Book of the Year. The citation for the Joint Personalities of the Year was read by the President.

IBPA AWARDS WINNERS & SHORT LIST

IBPA Personalities of the Year (Joint): BG (USA) +WB (USA)

Alan Truscott Memorial Award (no panel)

Winner: Chris Dixon (Eng)

for reporting from the South Pole (494.2) and then the Sahara (497.2)

C&R Motors Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Tarek Sadek (Egypt) by Brent Manley (USA) (\$250) in Estoril 491.9

Short list:

Phil Gue, Governor's Cup, Jakarta Sep/05 by Jos Jacobs 490.5

Justin Hackett (Estoril) by Mark Horton 491.9

Andrew McIntosh (NEC Cup) by Eric Kokish/Richard Colker 495.2

Michael Rosenberg (ACBL Regional) by Bobby Wolff 495.3

ITES Defence Award

Winner: Nino Masucci (Italy) by Kyoko Ohno (Japan), Estoril Seniors 494.13

Short list:

Zia Mahmood, Lederer, by Simon Cocheme 493.2

Peter Gill (South African Nationals, July'05) by Ron Klinger 489.5

Fu Zhong & Jack Zhao, Estoril, by Mark Horton 491.8

Maarten Schollardt Dutch Teams Final by David Bird 495.4

Precision Bidding Award

Winners: Debbie Rosenberg & JoAnna Stansby (USA) by Matt Granovetter (USA) (\$200 + 6 months membership) in Estoril 499.12

Short list:

Tony Nunn & Sartaj Hans, Lederer, by Simon Cocheme 493.3

Jill Meyers & Jill Levin, Cavendish by Richard Colker 497.8

Tommy Garvey & John Carroll (Ire), Verona, by Peter Gill, Slovakia B1.3

Fred Gitelman & Brad Moss, Verona, by Sheri Winestock, 499.12

Brazilian Junior Award

Winner: Dana Tal (Isr) by Sandra Kulovic-Probst (Eng) (\$250), Bangkok 9.14

Short list:

Marion Michielsen, European University Teams, by Christer Andersson 490.13

Meike Wortel, White House Top Teams, by Jan van Cleeff, 495.14

Justin Lall, Chicago GNT 2.13 by Paul Linxwiler, Chicago

Adam Edgtton-Niclas Ege defence World Junior Pairs 499.4 by Peter Gill

Thomas Bessis, Bangkok 7.15 by Brian Senior

Masterpoint Press Book of the Year (see 497.1)

Winner: Sabine Auken (Ger): *I Love This Game* (\$500) presented by Patrick Jourdain

Short list:

Roy Hughes: Card by Card

R. Jayaram (Jay): Serendipity in Bridge

Krzysztof Jassem: WJO5 – A modern version of the Polish Club

Ron Klinger: 5-card Major Stayman

Julian Pottage: Defend These Hands with Me

The IBPA Personalities of the Year 2006

The President read the citation:

For the first time in the 33-year history of this Award we are making two people joint winners. They certainly rank as two of the world's most famous bridge-players though their fame is built outside bridge. This year one gave the other a donation that made headlines around the world and brought much favourable mention for bridge in that their friendship and trust of each other was based upon the game. Last year the support they provided to junior bridge in the USA will hopefully transform the future of bridge in that country and reverse the trend of an ageing bridge population there.

When one of these two competed in the World Bridge Championships in Montreal in 2002 and Verona this year, the media were attracted to the championships in volumes we rarely see. Two intellects admired throughout the world are now firmly associated with bridge.

The two men, you will have deduced, are Bill Gates of Microsoft and Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway. Last year their donation to the ACBL to encourage young people to play bridge was one million dollars. The two argue that the game teaches logic, mental arithmetic, and co-operative behaviour, all beneficial to young people.

This year Buffett, "the sage of Omaha", made a donation to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a charitable trust, of sixty billion dollars, with the objective of tackling global poverty and disease. The mind-boggling amount has the chance to make a real difference to the world. Making the donation Mr. Buffett said "You can do a better job of giving it away than I can". Mr. Gates said: "It's almost scary. If I make a mistake with my own money it just doesn't feel the same as making a mistake with Warren's money."

The two first met in 1991. Buffett was already a bridge-player, and it was admiration for his intellect that encouraged Gates to give the game a try some eight years ago. Both now compete on the internet. This year Bill Gates has also announced his forthcoming retirement from Executive control of Microsoft. We have little doubt that he intends to spend more time playing bridge.

A.O. B. The President reminded members of the Journalists' lunch and Pairs on Thursday.