

# Annual General Meeting of the International Bridge Press Association

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2006 09.15 -10.15 Conference Centre, Verona

**Attending:** Phillip Alder (USA), Mabel Bocchi (WBF), Jan van Cleeff (Net), Simon Cocheme (Eng), Jose Damiani (Fra), Maureen Dennison (Eng), Mario Dix (Malta), Seamus Dowling (Ire), Auda Enciu (Isr), Tony Gordon (Eng), Dilip Gidwani (Ghana), Maureen Hiron (Spa), Mark Horton (Eng), Per Jannersten (Swe), Elena Jeronimidis (Eng), Patrick Jourdain (Wales), Ron Klinger (Aus), Eian Levy (Isr), Robert Lui (Can), Rosa Lui (Can), Brent Manley (USA), Goran Mattsson (Ger), Jean-Paul Meyer (Fra), Margaret Parnis England (Malta), Tony Proday (Eng), Nissan Rand (Isr), Roswitha Schneeweiss (Austria), Jan Swan (Net), Ron Tacchi (Fra), Robert Todd (USA).

**1:** Per Jannersten called the meeting to order.

**2:** Jourdain paid homage to deceased members: [(Amram Zamzami (Indo), Evelyn Senn (Net), Albert Benjamin (Sco) and Simon Ainger (Eng)] and asked members to be upstanding for a minute's silence.

**3:** The minutes of the AGM held in Estoril in November 2005 with one correction (Jan Swaan (Net) had been omitted from those attending) were approved as published in the Bulletin

## **4: Officer's reports**

### **President: Patrick Jourdain**

This year, IBPA has lost two of its most distinguished members. Evelyn Senn was a bridge player who worked in the public relations department of BOLS when Herman Filarski proposed the BOLS Tip idea that Evelyn enthusiastically supported. She became an officer of IBPA for ten years and a highly valued friend to your President.

Albert Benjamin was one of our best known and longest standing members. He was Scotland's first true bridge professional, writing a daily column for forty years for the Glasgow Citizen. His variation of ACOL is today the most popular system for tournament players in Britain.

Last year at Estoril we made some major changes to our officers, caused by new jobs for Per Jannersten and Christer Andersson, and the loss of Alan Truscott. This year I am relieved to report we are able to propose an unchanged list of officers. One of the new men, Mario Dix, thinking he had retired from his main job, offered to fill the roles of both Treasurer and Membership secretary. But his main job was extended and he suffered a fractured leg taking him out of action for several weeks. As a consequence the 2005 Accounts have not met the various deadlines for preparation. We will present them today but ask for their approval in Warsaw after auditing. But I wish to pay tribute to Mario for sticking to his post in very difficult circumstances.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors. All have signed up for a further year, so in Warsaw, when we make the Awards, there will be as last year a C&R Motors Hand of the Year, A Precision Auction of the Year, an ITES Best Defence of the Year, a Masterpoint Press Book of the Year, and a Brazilian Best Junior Play of the year. Furthermore, we have already received the annual grant from the WBF that is possible by the support the WBF has from Generali. We are discussing ideas for the Alan Truscott Memorial Award, currently with no sponsor.

The Press Eoom here in Verona is excellent, efficiently run as usual by Jan Swaan, spacious and enough computers though there were occasional problems with the Internet connections. I conclude by thanking our other officers, in particular our secretary, Maureen Dennison, for their work during the year.

### **Organisational Vice President: Dilip Gidwani**

We are making an effort to upgrade the IBPA website to cover maximum possible information on bridge related events. I hope to have the assistance of Robert Todd (a new IBPA member who joined in Estoril) for this work. Hopefully it will be during the course of this year. We hope to build in links to other bridge related websites and so encourage those writing on the web to join IBPA.

### **Secretary: Maureen Dennison**

There has been very little change in the secretarial workload as problems of magazine delivery etc is easily sorted over the net. The policy now is not to automatically send out membership cards but if they are needed for professional reasons, as for example for a trade federation or visa, they are available on request. We had a short report from our Editor, John Carruthers, that other than a few glitches in printing the logo, all was going well except for a shortfall in submissions from members and a few more contributions would not come amiss.

## **5: Appointees reports:**

**Treasures: Mario Dix**

This is my first Annual General Meeting as your Treasurer and I am also your Membership Secretary. My comments at this meeting are mostly to do with the finances but also to touch on Membership numbers, I firstly owe you an apology that you do not have the audited figures but merely my accounts. Unfortunately, when I agreed to take on these responsibilities, I had no idea I was about to embark on a task for my previous company that involved 14 visits to Turkey during the past 12 months. The accounts attached hereto should have been audited by the time we meet again in Warsaw when a formal vote can be taken to approve them.

As most of you know, the IBPA is formally incorporated in Montana, USA, where we are registered as a non-profit making organisation and thus we are afforded "tax-free" status. This obviously means that our accounts need to be prepared in US dollars. However, only about a third of our income and disbursements are actually transacted in dollars and all our cash is currently kept in Euro and pounds sterling. But this does mean that our accounts are apparently subject to the very large currency fluctuations that have been prominent over the past few years. During the year 2005 when the dollar was relatively strong at year end compared to 2004, it appeared that our assets held in European currencies had depreciated by about 6% when in reality they were almost unchanged. Most of "this loss" would have been eradicated if the "year end" was today when the dollar is quite a bit lower than at the end of last year. Our Awards continue to be well sponsored and we continue to receive our annual \$1,000 grant from the WBF. Thanks to the facility of using our Chairman, Per Jannersten's secure credit card facility, we have also reduced our credit card processing fee. So you will see from the attached budget for 2006, we still anticipate making a small profit this year. However, rising printing, postage and secretarial costs seem to warrant a small increase next year to GBP46 for the full rate subscription. It is not proposed to alter the Internet sub which will remain at GBP25

#### **Membership Secretary: Mario Dix – Report 2006:**

Honour members 14: Sponsored 7: Internet Members 164: Hard Copy Members 108.

Our membership continues to hold just about steady at approximately 325 members, though some have yet to renew. It can be seen that about 60% have now switched to receiving the monthly bulletin by Internet rather than snail mail. Whilst this dilutes our income, it also substantially reduces our costs in printing and postage.

**New members joining at Verona:** AUSTRIA: Roswitha Schneeweiss – CANADA: Robert & Rosa Lui – GERMANY: Elke Weber – USA Matt Granovetter.

**6:** The meeting was asked to approve the Accounts subject to auditor's report and they would be ratified in Warsaw. Also the meeting was asked to approve the increase to **£46** for the hard copy and it was passed nem con.

#### **7: Election of officers**

Patrick Jourdain (Wal) was confirmed as **President**. All other officers were **elected nem con as follows:**

**Chairman:** Per Jannersten (Swe), **Exec Vice-President:**

Jan van Cleeff (Net), **Organisational Vice-President:**

Dilip Gidwani (Ghana), **Secretary:** Maureen Dennison

(Eng), **Treasurer:** Mario Dix (Malta), **Hon General**

**Council:** Bill Pencharx (Eng), **Hon Auditor:** Julius

Butkow (RSA). Automatically continuing without

election are the **President Emeriti:** Tommy Sandsmark

(Nor) and Henry Francis (USA).

#### **8: Election of Executive Members:**

**Executive members whose term expires and are available for a 3-year term to 2009:** Christer Andersson (Swe), Peter Lund (Den), Ron Tacchi (Fra).

**Already elected to 2007:** Chris Diment (Aus), Panos Gerontopoulos (Gre), Brent Manley (USA).

**Already elected to 2008:** Julius Butkow (RSA), John Carruthers (Can), Barry Rigal (USA).

**Note: Appointees in post:**

Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA)

Editor: John Carruthers (Can)

Membership Secretary: Mario Dix (Mal)

Sponsored Members' Secretary: Irena

Chodorowska (Pol)

**9: Any other business:** Ron Tacchi informed the meeting of his website [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) on which he is posting archive photos. There is a public site, accessible to all, of less than top quality photos. However journalists can sign up, free of charge, with Tacchi and access his original, top quality, un-cropped photos. They can be downloaded for personal use but if used in a publication, laws of copyright still apply and a fee will be required. Note, photos from various Daily Bulletins can be used without fee but the quality is not as the original. He is to tag each photo – who, when, where etc – and would appreciate help with this task. More information will appear in the Bulletin

Maureen Hiron introduced her new game aBRIDGED, based on bridge without the bidding, which is to be sold in shops, not specialised outlets, and it is hoped that it will inspire players to take up the real game. Jose Damiani asked that the WBF logo is printed on the box as a sign of his support and interest. She offered any journalist present a free, review set.

Asked about Journalist Pairs and Journalists'

Outings, Jourdain noted the problem of time. It may be possible to organise a Pairs in Warsaw on Wednesday or Thursday providing at least 20 journalists are ready to play. At the world events, time is the problem. There is likely to be a Press Conference followed by hospitality on Friday in lieu of an outing.