

Annual General Meeting of the International Bridge Press Association
Monday October 8th 2007 1200 – 1330 SHANGHAI

Attending:- Phillip Alder (USA), Jean-Claude Beineix (Fra), Jan van Cleeff (Net), Irena Chodorowska (Pol), José Damiani (Fra), Maureen Dennison (Eng), Mario Dix (Malta), Seamus Dowling (Irl), Kay Downes (Irl), Margaret Parnis England (Malta), Sven-Olov Flodqvist (Swe), Joan Gerrard (USA), Panos Gerontopoulos (Gre), Ghassan Ghanem (Jor), Hans-Olof Hallen (Swe), Mark Horton (Eng), David Jackson (Irl), Britt Jannersten (Swe), Per Jannersten (Swe), Patrick Jourdain (Wales), Knut Kjaernsrod (Nor), Ray Lee (Can), Peter Lund (Den), Goran Mattsson (Ger), Zia Mahmood (USA), Barbara Nudelman (USA), Michael O'Connor (Ire), Paul Porteous (Irl), Barry Rigal (USA), Richard Solomon (NZ), David Stern (Aus), Jon Sveindal (Nor), Jan Swaan (Net), Ron Tacchi (Fra), Anna Torlontano (Ita), Bep Vriend (Net), John Wignall (Aus).

1: Patrick Jourdain called the meeting to order
2: Jourdain paid homage to deceased members Luigi Filippo d'Amico and Daniel Auby and others. As well as past members Paul Magerman and Tim Seres, he made mention of Marc Hodler who, though not an IBPA member, had done to promote bridge as an Olympic sport and enabled

several NCBOs to join their Olympic committees. Also dying during the past year were Jimmy Arthur and Linda Stern, husband and wife respectively of long term members.
3: The minutes of the AGM held on 19th June, 2006 in Verona were approved as published in the Bulletin.

4: Officers' Reports: President – Patrick Jourdain

It has been a relatively quiet year for us with no officer or appointee retiring. Our Chairman, Per Jannersten has come to the end of his year of responsibility within Rotary International but meanwhile he has been hosting our website free of charge, for which we thank him. New procedures for receiving credit card payments have gone well and that is the main use of the site to members. The membership file, which was well out-of-date, is now brought up-to-date at least quarterly.

The website design, however, has made little progress, so your Executive has decided to ask Jude Goodwin-Hanson of Canada to look at a redesign with particular view to adding many links in and out which would be useful to journalists plus a Content Management System that will allow those with appropriate authority to update their part of the website. Ron Tacchi is the member of our Executive responsible for dealing with photos. I want to thank all our sponsors for their contributions. There is one change of name: Dilip Gidwani no longer works for ITES and has made the contribution in the name of his Family Trust. Also in their absence, we thank Rose Meltzer, Ernesto d'Orsi, George Rosenkranz and Ray Lee. The WBF also supports us with an annual grant.

The Press Room in Shanghai is excellent and efficiently managed as always by Jan Swaan. Thank you. I also wish to thank our hard-working officers, in particular Mario Dix, who must find the joint task of being Treasurer and Membership Secretary a heavy burden to bear particularly as he continues working long after he told us he was retired.

Secretary – Maureen Dennison: There has been very little for your secretary to do during 2006/7. I am away from home quite a lot – 4 times a year for 3 weeks - so if I am 2 or 3 weeks replying to any query from a member, please excuse me. I deal with anything as soon as possible on my return.

5: Appointees' reports:

IBPA Membership Secretary - Mario Dix: Membership has continued to decline, but at least at a slower rate than in recent years. Just before this event began our membership comprised of 315 members of which 210 take the reduced internet subscription and 105 take the printed version.

We are pleased to welcome 9 new Members: Michael Akeroyd, Finn Bradness, Ned Buchelev, Mel Colchamiro, Karre Kristiansen, Danny von Arneim, and also some new Members who have joined here, Gunnar Andersson, Anant Bhagwat and Olle Persson

Treasurer – Mario Dix: The accounts for the year ending 31st December 2006 and the budget for the year 2008 were presented to the meeting.

Welcome. I trust that you all have a copy of The Auditor's report, the balance sheet and a copy of our income and expenditure and a copy of our budget for next year. As mentioned on our income statement, the US\$ extreme exchange rate volatility does cause some significant swings to our accounts which are showing a larger profit than is the reality. But as I mentioned last year, IBPA is a Montana registered tax free non profit making organization, and we have no reason to change this status; and so our accounts will always be expressed in US\$. The "split" between subs for the current year and future years is not as accurate as we would wish. This is partially because most credit card payments made in the second half of 2006 have been deemed to relate to future years, whereas in reality some of them were just from people paying late in 2006. We are now working on a system that we hope will avoid these anomalies for future years. We are in real cash terms running at and

projecting a slight loss as per the budget forecasts. Apart from our membership numbers slipping slightly, our income is further diminished by more members moving over to the internet reduced subscription, which is actually what we want. This is because the postage costs are increasing quite a lot for the printed version. Further, our bulletin editor and “hands provider” charges will also increase when expressed in dollars. As it is clearly rising postal costs, it only seems fair that those who receive the printed bulletin should bear the brunt of most of our rising expenditure and thus we are proposing an increase of 9% from GBP 46 to 50 in subscriptions for those Members, and a smaller 4% increase, after 4 years, for the internet version from GBP 25 to 26. Any possible deficit in the current year will most likely more than be covered by another apparent currency gain. Also the budget deficit forecast for 2008 does not take into account the subscription increases that I have just mentioned as these have not yet been approved by the Members. I will be pleased to answer any questions.

6: Because of increased costs, particularly postal, it was agreed that subscriptions for 2008 should be increased by 8% for the printed version – that is £46 to £50 – and that the internet subscription should be increased by 4% from £25 to £26.

7: The meeting was asked to approve the Accounts subject to auditor’s report.

8: Elections: Already elected for a two year term to 2008 is:

President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales); Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden);

Exec Vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Net);

Organisational Vice-President: Dilip Gidwani;

Secretary: Maureen Dennison (England);

Treasurer: Mario Dix (Malta).

Proposed for annual election are:

Hon. General Counsel: Bill Pencharz (Eng)

Hon. Auditor: Julius Butkow (South Africa)

Carried unanimously.

Automatically continuing without election are the

President Emeriti: Tommy Sandsmark (Nor);

Henry Francis (USA).

9: Election of Executive members:

Executive members whose term expires and are available for a 3-year term to 2010: Chris Diment (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA).

Carried unanimously.

Already elected to 2008: Julius Butkow (RSA);

John Carruthers (Can); Barry Rigal (USA).

Already elected to 2009: Christer Andersson (Swe); Peter Lund (Denmark); Ron Tacchi (Fra).

Note: Appointees in post: Awards Chairman: Barry

Rigal (USA); Editor: John Carruthers (Can);

Membership Secretary: Mario Dix (Malta);

Sponsored Members: Irena Chodorowska (Pol).

10: The IBPA Annual Awards (see elsewhere)

12: Any other business Barry Rigal raised the matter that at the European Youth Championships

despite the presence of Dutch journalists reporting to their newspapers from the Press Room no deals featuring the gold medallists had appeared in the Daily Bulletin or been sent to the IBPA Bulletin. Rigal felt there was a moral obligation on the part of IBPA members using the Press Room to submit at least one deal to the Daily Bulletin, and also to the IBPA Bulletin.

Mario Dix raised the matter of possibly widening IBPA membership to include bridge teachers. They could already join as Associate members if they wished so we would need to offer them a service to encourage them. That would either come from space in the Bulletin or the website. Seamus Dowling said he was a bridge teacher but saw nothing in having an international version of national bridge teachers associations. Jon Sveindahl said he would not like the atmosphere of a club for journalists to be damaged. Per Jannersten said any extra service would have to be free or cost very little as the extra members could not be expected to provide much extra income. Ron Tacchi suggested that if membership was widened it could be to all bridge professionals, then our initials would remain the same. The President said the organisation could not allow any other group to have a vote as IBPA had substantial assets that must remain for the benefit of bridge journalists. Ron Tacchi asked about an IBPA Pairs event. The President consulted those present but none thought there was spare time in the schedule for them to play in such an event.

Our Liaison Officer, Panos Gerontopoulos, would enquire about a Press Conference and any hospitality for the Press. Two members said bags and programmes had run out for journalists who were not players. The President said he would make enquiries.

Patrick Jourdain (President)