

IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & AWARDS

Sunday, October 12th 2008 - Beijing

In Attendance: Alder Phillip (USA); Beineix Jean-Claude (Fra); Bourke Tim (Australia); Chodorowska Irena (Pol); van Cleef Jan (Net); Cocheme Simon (Eng); Damiani José (Fra); Dennison Maureen (Eng); Diment Chris (Australia); Downes Kay (Ire); Gidwani Dilip (India); Godtfredsen Louise (Den); Horton Mark (Eng); Jackson David (Ire); Jannersten Per (Swe); Jourdain Patrick (Wales); Kelso Laurie (Australia); Klinger Ron (Australia); Lema Fernando Alfredo (Argentina); Lund Peter (Den); Manley Brent (USA); Rand Nissan (Isr); d'Orsi Ernesto (Brazil); Rigal Barry (USA); Rosenblum Michael (Russia); Stern David (Australia); Swaan Jan (Net); Tacchi Ron (Fra).

1. **Remembrance of Members deceased** since last AGM: Tim Seres (Australia) and Nils Petersen (Den). Also mentioned: Paul Soloway, Raymond Brock and John Armstrong.

2. **Minutes of the AGM** held on 8th Oct, 2008 in Shanghai (see Bulletin 514, page 3) were approved.

3. **Officers' Reports:**

(a) **President** :IBPA can be proud of its fifty years. We celebrated with dinners at the Europeans in Pau and here in Beijing with more than 40 members present at each. Here Johannes Hulgaard of Denmark, our guest of honour, was also a founding member. Per, our current Chairman, has kindly donated an anniversary IBPA pin to all members. Our Anniversary Handbook is in draft form on the website. Per's company has offered to print it and Generali to post it to members, for which we are most grateful. If you do NOT wish to receive a printed copy please inform us.

In other matters it has been a relatively quiet year. No officer or appointee has retired. More members have paid promptly. Many of the missing photos of members on the membership file have now been added. But our website design and its links still need improving.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking all our sponsors for their contributions. We are delighted that Ernesto d'Orsi and Dilip Gidwani are with us. We also thank George Rosenkranz, Rose Meltzer and Ray Lee in their absence. The WBF also supports us with an annual grant.

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. He asks me to convey his apologies for his absence as he has work to do in Malta. We thank those of our Executive who have contributed during the year. We also applaud Jan Swaan for his work as Press Room Manager and our Chinese hosts for the good working conditions here for the Press.

I come now to the matter of the printed version of the Bulletin posted to the home address of those members who pay the higher subscription rate. For 2009 your Executive has decided to present this as Full Member (£26) with an additional service charge (£29) for those receiving a printed Bulletin to their home address. This charge represents the full cost for those in the cheapest postal area.

(Currently we print all 100 copies in England.) In 2010 we plan the additional service charge will cover the full cost, i.e. higher for those in more expensive postal areas. In 2011 or 2012 we plan to drop the service generally. However, we will discuss individually the provision of printed Bulletins to our members (now less than 30) who do not have e-mail, and also honour members and current IBPA sponsors who may expect a printed copy.

Secretary's report: Maureen Dennison

Apart from my work at championships, I have very little to do towards the smooth running of the IBPA. However, I am always there as a 'backstop' should there be a problem.

Editor's Report: John Carruthers

The 12 months since Shanghai have been relatively quiet, save for a few battles in the Correspondence section of the IBPA Bulletin. Players provided us with marvelous copy, the outstanding examples of which (in my mind) were Michelle Brunner's duck of the heart king at trick one in the Venice Cup, Giorgio Duboin's and Tor Helness' battle in 3NT in the Bermuda Bowl and Brad Moss' five-heart bid in the US Trials. All showed the heights to which bridge can climb. In those 12 months, we have had 50 different authors from 21 different countries on five continents published in the Bulletin (not counting correspondence and news items), an admirable output. However, conspicuous in its absence was any material from the continent of Africa (excepting correspondence and news), and from bridge powers Italy and Poland. Additionally, and distressingly, only two women and one junior were among the 50 authors published. Tim Bourke of Australia, Barry Rigal of the USA and Mark Horton of England were our most prolific contributors. I would

dearly love to see increased participation from our members in Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Japan and China, as well as more contributions from women and juniors.

I would also like IBPA members to feel free to make suggestions for content and to criticise actual content. But ultimately, the Bulletin is only as good as the material I receive, so I exhort you; please keep the material coming in. I love this job and do the best I can to produce a high-quality periodical. I'll close with a quote from John Armstrong (the other John Armstrong, from Toronto), who was editor of our local bridge magazine for 17 years. "You send, we publish; you no send, we no publish."

Treasurer's Report: Mario Dix; As our audited accounts show, 2007 was satisfactory in that we made a surplus on operations despite the extra amount of travel to Shanghai as this was balanced by our bulletin editor not using his annual travel allowance. The outlook for 2008 is also reasonable but with the clearly declining value of Sterling, coupled with increased UK postal costs, we will probably only just about break even.

My budget projections for 2008 and 2009 exclude the meaningless currency adjustments and do assume that we can maintain our current number of members. It also assumes that we will continue to receive the same level of sponsorship for awards, out of which we make a good profit towards our general expenditure and travel costs. Please also note that I have assumed an exchange rate of GBP/USD 1.80. This is pertinent in that our subscriptions are in Sterling, but about 2/3rds of our real expenditure is in Dollars.

As we are now well into the 21st century, it is your Treasurer's suggestion that we should eventually be looking to phase out the printed version of the bulletin because the costs involved. Printing and posting it exceed the extra subscription charge. I accept the fact that we still have some Members who do not have email and I do not wish to deprive these Members, but I think that they should pay the cost for the service (unless they are over 80 years of age when they are paying half the due).

The current cost for printing and postage is \$7142, divided by 103 members paying for printed bulletins, makes an expense of \$69 per person. That is to say, the correct charge for the printed version should be £64. I suggest that we should increase the cost for membership with the printed bulletin to £55 in 2009 and that there should be a similar increase to £60 for 2010. If everyone printed their own copy we could reduce the price of the internet version, although I suggest that this is not done until 2010.

It might also be a suggestion for 2009 that the Honour Members who have email addresses and receive the bulletin for free, should be advised that they will receive their bulletins via email in future, unless they want to pay the extra. This alone would save us an estimated \$1,000.

Finally, I would like to thank Per Jannersten, our Chairman, who has done a terrific job in improving the IBPA web page from an accounting point of view, as well as all other modifications that make renewal on line so easy. But could Members who pay by credit card please remember to advise me about changes of their card details when they occur, particularly new expiry dates if your card expires in 2008.

Thank you and I apologise for my absence in Beijing. However, I expect to attend in both San Remo and San Paulo next year.

5. **Accounts** for the year ending 31st December 2007, budget and subscriptions for the year 2009 plus auditor's report were approved. Stern asked that IBPA funds only be held in accounts backed by government guarantee. Jannersten agreed to check this with the Treasurer.

6. **Election of officers:** (all agreed unanimously): nominated for a two-year term to 2010 are:

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)

Automatically continuing without election are the President Emeriti: Tommy Sandsmark (Nor); Henry Francis (USA).

7. **Election of Executive members** (all agreed unanimously): Executive members whose term expires and are available for a 3-year term to 2011: Julius Butkow (RSA); John Carruthers (Can); Barry Rigal (USA).

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

Already elected to 2010: Chris Diment (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA). Note: Chris Diment has resigned and David Stern (Australia) is nominated to replace him
Note: Appointees in post: Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA); Editor: John Carruthers (Can).
Membership Secretary: Mario Dix (Malta). Sponsored Members: Irena Chodorowska (Pol).

8. **The IBPA Annual Awards** (see also elsewhere): **Alan Truscott Memorial Award** is given for some special service to the game that would appeal to him. He was also a fine chess player.

The award was given to Liu Siming (China), Vice-President of the Chinese Contract Bridge Association, for services to the International Mind Sports Association, bringing chess and bridge together at this First World Mind Sports Games. Patrick Choy, accepting the award, said Siming, as Director General Administrator of Sport in China, worked tirelessly to bring bridge and chess into media coverage.

IBPA Personality of the Year: This year both IBPA and the WBF are celebrating 50 years of existence. Your Executive decided to honour as its Personality of the Year someone who represents the commercial sponsors who have most supported bridge in general but IBPA in particular over many years. For IBPA in our early years that would have been BOLS, but in the later years one company stands out, namely, Generali.

In the days when I was your Editor Generali frequently supported IBPA with full page adverts. When we produced our last Handbook in 2002 Generali paid for the postage to members and they have made a similar offer this year.

In bridge generally you all know of Generali's support for both the WBF and EBL. The most obvious here in Beijing was the Generali World Masters Individual.

The one individual who has represented Generali over the years is its President, Antoine Bernheim of Italy. Sadly Mr. Bernheim cannot be present to accept the Award so we have asked someone who is a good friend of Mr. Bernheim to accept the Award on his behalf. I refer to the President of the World Bridge Federation, Mr Damiani.

9. **AOB:** Ernesto d'Orsi reported on arrangements for Sao Paulo next year (for dates see IBPA calendar). There would be a Press Outing. Ron Klinger reported on a number of inaccuracies in results that were causing problems for journalists. The President replied that the organisers could only take responsibility for what was on the official screens, not for live reporters such as Bridgebase or SwanGames. Stern reported that information from the Youth Tournament was much better than that from the Open, Women and Seniors. Alder said the latter had improved since the knockout phase started.

The President said the Executive would consider whether the currency for membership should be changed from pounds given the decrease in expenditure in pounds as the printed Bulletin was phased out, with an increase in expenditure in dollars due to the Editor being in North America.

Patrick Jourdain (President)