

Minutes of the IBPA AGM Sao Paulo 10am Mon 7th Sep 2009

Present: Patrick Jourdain (IBPA President) Wales; Per Jannersten (IBPA Chairman) Sweden; Jose Damiani WBF President (Fra); Jaime Ortiz-Patino (Switz) WBF President Emeritus; Phillip Alder (USA); Olivier Audouard (Fra); Jean-Claude Beineix (Fra); John Carruthers (Can); Philippe Cronier (Fra); Joan Gerard (USA); Panos Gerontopoulos (Gre); Tony Gordon (Eng); Tommy Gullberg (Sweden); Hans-Olof Hallen (Sweden); Azwerul Haque (Pak); Britt Jannersten (Swe); Ron Klinger (Australia); Ton Kooijman (Net); Ray Lee (Canada); Fernando Lema (Arg); Brent Manley (USA); Ernesto d'Orsi (Brazil); TC Pant (India); Barry Rigal (USA); Jon Sveindal (Nor); Jan Swaan (Net); Geo Tislevoll (Nor); Mauro Uberti (Arg); Christina Vennerod (Nor); Howard Weinstein (USA).
In attendance: Bill Pollack (USA).

In the absence of the secretary the President asked for a volunteer to take minutes. Jan Swaan proposed Tony Gordon and this was accepted.

The President welcomed the WBF President. Mr Damiani reported he would answer questions at the end of the AGM. The Press Conference traditionally held on Friday might then not be necessary.

The meeting stood in memory of deceased members Nissan Rand and Freddie North and others who had passed away since the previous AGM.

The minutes of the last AGM in Beijing were tabled. They had been published in the IBPA Bulletin 527 and were taken as read. There being no corrections Panos Gerontopoulos proposed their acceptance, Barry Rigal seconded and this was passed nem con.

The IBPA President gave his report:

The major change for IBPA this year had been the transfer of Bulletin printing from England to India, under the supervision of Dilip Gidwani. This had worked well and the increased surcharge for members requesting the service now fully covers the reduced cost.

The new Handbook had been printed and distributed. Last year it was in internet form only. The printing concluded IBPA's 50th anniversary celebrations. These had included a pin for every member provided by Jannersten Forlag, and the self-financing but very successful dinners in Pau and Beijing. We can be proud of the Handbook. The Editor, Tjolpe Flodqvist, and major contributors such as Britt Jannersten had been thanked at the last AGM, but thanks could now be added to Jannersten Forlag for covering the cost of printing and Generali for the postage cost to members.

As to Sao Paulo, the Press Room had good conditions, well-managed as usual by Jan Swaan. The Press Trip to Guaruja was a great success and Ernesto d'Orsi was thanked for that and the excellent lunch. So far in Sao Paulo IBPA had five new members: Bianca Barden of Germany, Olivier Adouard of France, TC Pant of India, and Mauro Uberti & Anna Roth of Argentina. Those present were introduced.

An apology was made for the fact that the accounts presented to this meeting had not yet been audited and therefore cannot be approved here. Our Chairman reports further on this matter. Your Executive in Sanremo decided that subs for 2010 be quoted in US dollars rather than pounds sterling though the intention is to leave them unchanged at current exchange rates.

All five of our sponsors had agreed to continue for 2009. The name of the Declarer Play of the Year has been changed to the RoseCliff Award following a request by the sponsor, Rose Meltzer, as the previous name, C&R Motors is no longer valid. Thanks were made to Ernesto d'Orsi for the Junior Award, George Rosenkranz for the Bidding Award, Dilip Gidwani for the Defence Award and Ray Lee for Book of the Year Award.

Relations between the WBF and IBPA have remained warm. The WBF was thanked for its grant to IBPA. The Treasurer had reported the 2009 grant had already been received in the IBPA Account. The President concluded by thanking the other officers and members of the Executive for their work during the year. The former Treasurer, Christer Andersson, and long-standing Executive member, Peter Lund, are to retire as Executive members and they were thanked warmly for their service. The Nominations Committee had asked our Auditor to expand his role to include auditing the actions of the Executive Committee, a task which he has accepted, and he has therefore stepped down from the Executive whilst continuing to have the right to see the minutes of its meetings.

The Executive had recommended a new Honour Member of IBPA. This was the new WBF President-elect, our good friend Gianarrigo Rona. He has been a strong supporter of IBPA during his period as EBL President and before that as President of the Italian Bridge Federation. The President moved the motion that he become an honour Member of IBPA. This proposal was passed unanimously.

The IBPA Editor's (John Carruthers) report: He introduced Katie Thorpe, who was known mostly through e-mails with monthly Bulletin codes. Bulletin printing and distribution had moved to India,

with Dilip Gidwani taking over as Production Manager. After some initial growing pains, production was operating smoothly once again. Although the post takes longer to reach some parts of the world from India than it had from the UK, costs to IBPA are lower.

Bridge authorities continue to provide rich material for his editorials, not always popular. He was nowhere near as diplomatic as our previous editor (and current president) and was striving to achieve his deft touch.

Europe, North America and Australia continue to provide the bulk of the material for the Bulletin, although in the past year reports appeared of trials and tournaments and/or correspondence from 7 of the 8 WBF zones; only the CACBF was not represented. Material was published from writers residing in 19 countries on every continent - Barry Rigal, Ron Klinger, Tim Bourke, Brent Manley and Mark Horton being the most frequent contributors. We would welcome more material from especially Africa, South America and Asia. If you are uncertain about your English-language skills, you may submit material in your own language and I shall endeavour to have it translated for our readers.

Suggestions for improvement were welcome and all would be carefully considered.

The Editor recognised the assistance and expertise of his proofreaders, PO Sundelin of Stockholm and Katie Thorpe of Toronto. PO ensures that that the writers' analyses are accurate and occasionally, much to his glee, is able to correct my English grammar. Katie ensures that the content makes sense, flows smoothly, checks to see there are 13 cards in every hand and that there is precisely one of each card in every deal. Their help was invaluable.

The IBPA Liaison officer with the EBL and WBF, Panos Gerontopoulos reported that he had no problems to report.

The IBPA Secretary: There was no report from the secretary.

The IBPA Chairman, Per Jannersten gave his report: The nominating committee consisted of Jannersten, Barry Rigal and David Stern. The ambition of the nomination committee is (gradually) to renew the Executive and Officers with younger people, while maintaining a good geographical spread. The Control Committee consists of the Chairman, the Auditor (Julius Butkow) and the Counsel (Bill Pencharz). The only question that the control committee has had to consider since the previous AGM is how to handle the fact that the accounts for 2008 have not been audited as yet. The control committee's advice to the AGM is:

- i. to note (have it minuted) that the accounts are unaudited.
- ii. to pass a resolution urging the Officers to see to that the accounts are audited without further delay.
- iii. to pass a resolution directing the Executive to inform the membership of the Auditor's Report as soon as received.
- iv. to adjourn the formal approval of the 2008 accounts until the next General Meeting (probably the 2010 AGM.)

This motion was passed nem con.

The Chairman judged that the state of realm of the organization was good, but the Executive has reason to consider improvements to the organization's administrative routines.

The aforementioned is a report on the Chairman's constitutional duties; but it is other matters that have consumed most of my time. In January we moved the printing and mailing of the Bulletin to India in order to reduce costs. That has been possible thanks to Organisational Vice-President Dilip Gidwani. With great efforts by Tjolpe Flodqvist, supported by Britt Jannersten, we managed to publish our 50th anniversary Handbook in January 2009. Finally he had managed (through the Jannersten company) the website, our internet-based membership registry and the credit card payment facilities.

At 10.30am the AGM was suspended for the Awards Ceremony.

Awards:

Brazilian Junior Award presented by Ernesto d'Orsi, player Thomas Bessis (\$50), Brian Senior journalist (\$250)

RoseCliff Award presented by Jose Damiani, player Steve Weinstein represented by Howard Weinstein, journalist Phillip Alder (\$250).

Gidwani Defence Award presented by Dippak Poddar, player Michelle Brunner represented by John Holland, journalist Maureen Hiron (\$250);

Precision Bidding Award presented by Phillip Alder, Gerald & Stuart Tredinnick represented by Peter Baxter, journalist Heather Dhondy (\$250)

Masterpoint Press Book of the Year Award presented by Ray Lee, joint winners Ron Klinger (\$250) and the late Frank Vine (\$250)

The Alan Truscott Award: Gary Pomerantz (USA)
IBPA 2009 Personality of the Year presented by Patrick Jourdain: Rose Meltzer, represented by Bill Pollack.

Returning to the AGM

The IBPA Treasurer's (Mario Dix) report: Unaudited accounts and balance sheet and 2010 budget were tabled (see elsewhere). The President said the loss shown was almost wholly due to currency changes with a strong dollar in 2008 whereas the deposit account was in euros and the Treasurer's account in pounds sterling. In reality the report showed IBPA had broken even in 2008. The Meeting accepted the accounts as unaudited. When the auditors report had been received they would be published in the IBPA Bulletin. Formal approval would be delayed until the next General Meeting. The President then read out a proposal from the Executive that the sub for 2010 would be US \$42 with a surcharge of US \$45 for those members who received a printed Bulletin. This was passed nem con. The Chairman read out membership numbers for 2008. IBPA had gained members. So far in 2009 there was a fall but this was normal and overall he reported membership was stable.

Elections: As agenda in Bulletin 535: For a 3-year re-election to 2012: Geo Tislevoll (Norway); Nikolas Bausback (Germany); Ron Tacchi (France); For a 2-year vacancy to 2011: Pietro Campanile (Israel). Approved nem con.

Already elected to 2010: David Stern (Australia); Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece); Brent Manley (USA). Already elected to 2011: John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA).

AOB This was adjourned to allow the WBF President to make an announcement and receive questions from the IBPA members present.

Mr Damiani requested support from journalists in promoting the World Bridge Series in Philadelphia, October 1-16th 2010. The schedule of events had been published, the city was a fine attraction, and the costs of the recommended accommodation and getting to the city were reasonable. Presentation material would be available later this week. The Series would include the Junior finals of the Under 26 and Under 21 events and a new Youth Individual open to all juniors. The WBF was not ready yet for a Girls event. One change from Verona was the Mixed Teams event had been moved to the end and would coincide with the Pairs finals.

The first World Youth Congress in Istanbul had had 94 pairs and 40 teams.

For the 2011 World Championships: Marrakesh in Morocco was being considered.

For the 2012 World Mind Sport Games: IMSA was still seeking a venue but was not expecting London to come up with a viable proposition.

For 2013: a debt was still owed to Bali who lost the 2001 event but Buenos Aires, Argentina had also applied.

P D Jourdain (Daily Telegraph) asked about drug tests. JD replied the WBF was resisting any out-of-competition tests. 8 had already been tested in Sao Paulo and 16 more would take place. No failures reported from Beijing. Currently no drugs were on the performance-enhancing list, but research was continuously under way.

Alder asked about Junior sponsorship which had been strong in Beijing with flight and accommodation assistance: JD replied there was no equivalent in Philadelphia.

AOB re-opened: Hans-Olof Hallen reported that IBPA's President Emeritus, Tommy Sandsmark, sent his greetings and was now in much better health and able to travel more. Sadly his wife Siri had recently passed away.

END