

## Minutes of the IBPA AGM: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010 Philadelphia

Phillip Alder (USA): Sevinc Atay (Turkey): Geoffrey Barrett (USA): John Carruthers (Canada): Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands): Maureen Dennison (England): Mario Dix (Malta): Alan Falk (USA): Panos Gerontopoulos (Greece): Dilip Gidwani (India): Per & Britt Jannersten (Sweden): Patrick Jourdain (Wales): Laurie Kelso (Australia): Radek Kielbasinski (Poland): Ron Klinger (Australia): Brent Manley (USA): Victor Marinescu (Argentina): Magdy Mesdary (Egypt): Jean-Paul Meyer (France): Dan Morse (USA): Margaret Parnis-England (Malta): David Stern (Australia): Jan Swaan (Netherlands): Ron Tacchi (France): Geo Tislevoll (Norway): Anna Maria Torlontano (Italy): Armand Trippaers (Netherlands): Herman De Wael (Belgium): John Wignall (New Zealand).

**1: The President** asked those present to stand in respect of those members who had passed away since the last AGM. Remembered in particular was Stuart Staveley, the long-serving Membership Secretary.

### **2: Officer's reports:**

**President's report:** It has been a stable year for IBPA but four strong supporters of IBPA now retire. Our finances, excluding currency changes, are close to break even. Membership remains at just over 310. Two of the retirements are sponsors. For five years (2005-9) the Junior Award has been sponsored by Ernesto d'Orsi in the name of the Revista Brasileira de Bridge. Sadly the bridge magazine is no more and so the sponsorship has ended. Ernesto is an Honour Member of IBPA and we welcome him here today. We have an excellent replacement in the person of Nick Nickell who has already committed himself for the three years 2010-2012 in the name of his former bridge partner, the late Richard Freeman.

The other retiring sponsor is George Rosenkranz. From as early as 1976 George sponsored our bidding award in the name of Romex, the system he invented. From 2006-9 the name was Precision but the sponsor was the same. So George has been our supporter for 34 years. Despite his long generosity to IBPA it was an omission on our part that George had not been made an honour member. That error we now correct. Your Executive proposes that George Rosenkranz of Mexico be made an honour Member of IBPA. (Approved nem con.) As replacement we have George Retek, to whom we are grateful.

I take this opportunity to thank our other sponsors: Rose Meltzer, Dilip Gidwani and Ray Lee. We are also grateful to the WBF for its annual grant.

The two other retirements are officers. At the 2005 AGM in Estoril, Christer Andersson retired as Treasurer and Stuart Staveley as Membership Secretary. Mario Dix, in anticipation of more free time, generously offered to take on both roles. In reality an unexpected business task continues to take up much of his time. So, last year he gave up the Membership role to Jeremy Dhondy, and now the Treasurer's role goes to Jeremy's wife Heather Dhondy. We thank Mario for his five years service as an Officer.

The other retirement is our Secretary, Maureen Dennison. Her husband, Jim, is losing his sight. Maureen replaced the late Evelyn Senn at the 2000 AGM. We thank her therefore for ten years service as an officer and her regular presence at World and European Championships. We honour both these retirements, as we did in Estoril, with a dinner in their honour tonight.

I am also grateful to our other officers. Per Jannersten, Chairman, puts in much work for IBPA outside his remit. Dilip Gidwani is not only a sponsor but also Production Manager for the printed Bulletin. Jan van Cleeff has plans to improve our website service.

I also thank the other members of your Executive. Remarkably, given our worldwide spread, 9 of the 15 attended our first meeting in Philadelphia. The next will be after our Awards tomorrow.

We have welcomed five new members in Philadelphia: Anna Jannersten is our second Junior, also Sylvia Caley, Victor Marinescu, Brian Gunnell and Avrom Posen. That means Membership is 311.

Finally thanks to all of you for attending. We would not have a quorum without you! **Patrick Jourdain**

**Chairman's report:** The Nominating Committee consists of the Chairman, Barry Rigal and David Stern. The nomination committee's ambition is to (gradually) renew the Executive and the Officers with younger forces whilst at the same time the geographical spread is maintained or improved.

The Control Committee consists of the Chairman, the Auditor (Julius Butkow) and the Counsel (Bill Pencharz). The control committee has had no reason to take action in the past year.

The state of realm of the organization is good, but there is a potential for improvements on the organization's administration. \*\*\*\*

The aforementioned is the required, formal report of the Chairman's [constitutional] duties. In practice it is other matters that consume most of the Chairman's time. I still manage (through the Jannersten company)

the website, the membership registry and the online credit card payment facilities. The credit card payments should have been moved to a dedicated IBPA account with Paypal; hopefully we will manage to have the Paypal function operational in the near future.

*Per Jannersten*

**Secretary's Report:** I have much enjoyed being your secretary. The camaraderie between the members makes for the smooth running of the organisation. However, my husband (should I say long suffering husband) is losing his sight to the dreaded macular degeneration. Soon I may be unable to attend Championships. Thus it is time for the IBPA to move on with a new secretary. I hope to be able to visit some events and keep in touch with many of you.

*Maureen Dennison*

### 3: Appointees reports:

**Editor's report:** The past 12 months since São Paulo have passed in a trice. As far as the Bulletin is concerned, it has been a relatively unremarkable year. The Bulletin had contributions from 54 different writers residing in 25 countries from 7 of the 8 WBF Zones. As usual, Europe, North America and the South Pacific had the largest number of contributions, with only the Caribbean/Central America being unrepresented. Six of our contributors were women. Again, Tim Bourke from Australia, Mark Horton of England, Ron Klinger from Australia, Barry Rigal (USA) and Phillip Alder (also USA) made the largest number of contributions. I thank them and everyone else who contributed.

Special thanks must publicly go to P.O. Sundelin of Sweden who I depend upon for technical expertise even more than Deep Finesse. P.O. has loyally reviewed almost every article published since I took over as editor. Catching me out in a technical gaffe is no great accomplishment, so P.O. especially looks forward to correcting my spelling and grammar. Equally proficient as a proofreader is my wife Katie Thorpe, who checks every word and diagram. The occasional booboo in this area is usually due to changes after she's done. Without these two helping me, I assure you, there would be many more errors.

Once again, I ask all IBPA members to make a contribution to the Bulletin. Don't worry if your English is not perfect, we'll try and make it so. We can even make translations. I would especially like to see more contributions from Africa and Latin America and from our female members.

*John Carruthers*

**EBL & WBF Liaison Officer:** As usual I have nothing to report. *Panos Gerontopoulos*

**4. Treasurer's report:** (*due to space the financial account and Treasure's report will be published in the next bulletin*) A proposal to approve the 2009 Accounts was carried unanimously. A proposal that the subscription rates remain the same in 2011 as 2010, namely US dollars \$42 for membership and US dollars \$45 for the extra service of receiving a printed Bulletin, was carried unanimously.

### 5: Election of Officers for two years to 2012

President: Patrick Jourdain (Wales)(*ratified unanimously.*) Then, en bloc and ratified unanimously:

Chairman: Per Jannersten (Sweden); Executive vice-President: Jan van Cleeff (Netherlands);

Organisational vice-president: Dilip Gidwani (India); Treasurer: Heather Dhondy (England); Secretary:

Herman De Wael (Belgium). Then: Legal counsel: Bill Pencharz (England); Auditor: Julius Butkow (South Africa).

### Election of Executive for three years to 2013:

David Stern (Australia); Brent Manley (USA); Todashi Yoshida (Japan).

**Already elected to 2011:** John Carruthers (Canada); Barry Rigal (USA); Pietro Campanile (Israel).

**Already elected to 2012:** Geo Tislevoll (Norway); Nikolas Bausback (Germany); Ron Tacchi (France).

**Appointees in post:** Awards Chairman: Barry Rigal (USA); Editor: John Carruthers(Canada).

Membership Secretary: Jeremy Dhondy (England).

### 6. Any other competent business.

Anna Maria Torlontano gave a presentation about the women's event in Thailand and asked the journalists to give it publicity. Armand Trippaers made a presentation about next World Year's championship in Veldhoven. The Press room conditions were expected to be excellent with updated laptops. He advised early booking as the number of rooms on site is limited

*The meeting was adjourned until Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October for the presentation of awards and AOB:*