



# The International Bridge Press Association

## Minutes

### IBPA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Online at 9 a.m. EST, 3 p.m. CET

#### Attendance

There were 29 participants and 20 proxies (see list in point 13)

#### 1. Quorum

We have a quorum.

#### 2. Recommend the Chairman of the AGM

Barry Rigal is elected as Chairman, proposed by David Stern. Approved with 18 votes plus 20 proxies.

#### 3. Remembrance

This point was moved to the end of the agenda. This year we lost Jeff Goldsmith, David Birman, Grattan Endicott, Patrick Grenthe, Victor Silverstone and some well known bridge players who were not members of the IBPA. We honoured them with a minute of silence.

#### 4. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM on December 12, 2020 Online

Proposed by David Stern and seconded by Per Jannersten. No questions asked. One abstention and approval by all the others.

#### 5. Officers' Reports

**Chairman** Per Jannersten reports that membership of the IBPA is up by 15%, which is good but not good enough to stay solid in the future. He encourages everybody to give him names of potential new members.

**Secretary** Elisabeth van Ettinger reports that the little work she had to do was all online. She hopes we will see each other next year at a live Championship.

**President** Barry Rigal expresses that this year had many pauses and little live bridge. His attention is focused on next year. Important points are to retain membership and keep the Hainan Bridge Festival sponsorship. Our income depends on sponsorships but, at the moment, planning is difficult. The award winners of 2020 will get their award money paid soon. The award winners of 2021 will be announced at this meeting. We hope that the winners of this and last year will get some sponsorship to attend

the Hainan Bridge Festival in 2022 if possible. Barry is grateful that most IBPA members stayed with us. He thanks the executives for their work and Marek Wojcicki for making the Jeff Goldsmith papers available on our website.

#### 6. Appointees' Reports

**Editor** John Carruthers explains that this year was unusual in three ways. Hardly any live tournaments so mostly online reports. Accusations of cheating and confessions concerning online tournaments were all duly reported. More articles from new members. He thanks his proof readers/editors P.O Sundelin, Katie Thorpe and Philip Alder. John informs us that after his last editorial he got more comments than any before.

**Membership Secretary** Katie Thorpe reports that we have a total of 281 members. Unfortunately, membership is lopsided. We have only 1 member from the Caribbean/Central American zone and 4 members from Africa/Middle East.

**Treasurer Richard Solomon** could not present his report live due to the big time difference. We have a solid financial position and enough cash.

#### 7. Treasurer's Financial Statement and Auditor's Report

Per Jannersten presents the financial statement and auditor's report. We have more members. Sponsorship is also up because we promised our sponsors more. Funbridge has stopped their sponsorship. The WBF is steady in their financial support. We are thankful for that. We earned money because of exchange rates but that is random and can be lost again in another year. The reserve is up because we have the costs under control. This year we expect to lose \$5000 but we also expect to regain that amount next year. Our Auditor, Richard Fleet could not be present at the meeting but sent his approval of the financial statement by mail. The meeting passed the financial statement with 1 abstention while all other approved.

#### 8. Approval of budget 2022 and decision on membership dues for 2022

The treasurer recommends that the membership dues for 2022 remain unchanged at \$43. Toine van Hoof asked why we have a number of non-paying members. Per Jannersten explains that we have no such thing as free members. But when the value of a member is great by contributing to the IBPA Bulletin or other work, the IBPA can sponsor their dues. 19 plus 20 vote in favour, so the budget and dues are approved.

#### 9. Elections of Executive Members

Already elected for 2021-2022 are President Barry Rigal (USA); Chairman Per Jannersten (Sweden) Vice-President David Stern (Australia) Organisational Vice President Dilip Gidwani (India) Treasurer Richard Solomon (New Zealand) Secretary Elisabeth van Ettinger (Netherlands).

Nominated for election until 2022:

**Honorary Chairman Zhu Qingfeng:** Barry Rigal explains that Mr. Zhu has set up and organizes the ongoing sponsorship by the Hainan Bridge Festival. We want to thank him and give him and the HBF more visibility to the outside world.

Approved with 35 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

**General Counsel Allan Falk:** Allan has been very helpful with the Constitution. We thanked David Harris, who has served us well in the past, but it has been difficult for him to combine the IBPA with the WBF and his main loyalty is with the WBF.

Approved with 38 for and 1 abstention.

**Auditor Richard Fleet:** who has always been very conscientious in his work for the IBPA. Approved with 38 for and 1 against.

Nominated for election to the Executive until 2024

**GeO Tislevoll (NZL)** Approved with 36 in favour and 2 against

**Jerry Li (PRC)** 38 in favour and 1 abstention

**Liam Milne (Australia)** 38 in favour and 2 abstentions.

## 10. Approval of the Revised Constitution

Per Jannersten gives an explanation of the necessity to revise the Constitution. He received a lot of good advice from Allan Falk. The old Constitution had a number of weaknesses and change is needed to be fit for the future. Membership should be approved by the Executive. Members have to waive the right to sue the Organization. They can criticize but we have to minimize the chance of being sued. We make a difference between full members and other members. Only full members have the right to vote. Honorary members are not automatically full members. The Chairman is supposed to control and check the Executive but is at the same time part of the Executive. This is not a tenable situation so the Auditor and Counsel should be in this position. It is now too easy to change the Constitution. At present 1 extra meeting directly after an AGM is enough. This will be changed so that 2 AGM's are necessary. Barry Rigal asks if we can ratify the new Constitution now or if we have to wait till the next AGM. Per suggests that we ratify now and early in the agenda of the next AGM we can approve. 38 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

## 11. Awards

The awards of 2021 were presented by David Stern. Judges consisted of Barry Rigal, J.J. Wang, Zia Mahmood, Jan van Cleeff, David Stern, Gilad Ofir, Peter Fredin, Marek Wojcicki, Maurizio Di Sacco.

**Best declarer play:** Boye Brogeland player and Christina Lund Madsen journalist.

**Best Defence:** Kjell Jonsen player and Knut Kjærnsrød journalist.

**Best Bid:** Jerry Li and Ao Hailong players and J.J. Wang journalist.

**Best Junior Deal:** Jin Kai player and Jie (Jerry) Li journalist.

**Book of the Year:** Two winners: Simon Cochemé with *Bridge with a Twist* and Samantha Punch with *Bridge at the Top: Behind the Screens*

**Personality of the Year:** Samantha Punch is named Personality of the Year for the publicity following her and the Scottish team's courageous stand in not playing against the Italian team at the EBL championships and her work with the University of Stirling and the *Keep Bridge Alive* campaign. Samantha is delighted and honoured with her awards. She is proud of her team members who supported each other in not playing against Italy. They were the first scheduled to play Italy and all the other teams followed suit. She is doing a new research about inequality and sexism in the bridge world. Unfortunately this is still taking place.

## 12. Any Other competent business

Frank Stewart sends a motion asking the IBPA to take a stronger action against cheats. In the opinion of David Stern and Per Jannersten we are an organisation for journalists and not involved in political actions. John Carruthers has published in the Bulletin all the reports on cheating and confessions that were sent in. He might encourage journalists to take a strong stand against cheating in an editorial. Jan van Cleeff asked about the threat from an Italian player, who has been convicted of cheating, to sue the IBPA. Allan Falk replies that nothing new can be reported. The chance of success for a lawsuit is minimal. Jan van Cleeff wants to know if the revised constitution protects a journalist from being sued. The answer is that the IBPA will be better protected but not the individual journalist.

Barry Rigal congratulates all the award winners and thanks the Executive for their contribution to the organization. He thanks Dilip Gidwani for his hard work and sponsorship. Dilip represented our organization in Sanya at the last Hainan Bridge Festival. A special thanks to David Stern who has organized this AGM in a perfect way.

## 13. List of attendees to the AGM

Les Amoils, Svetlana Badrankova, John Carruthers, Simon Cochemé, Herman De Wael, Allan Falk, Dilip Gidwani, Per Jannersten, Britt Jannersten, Julian Laderman, Bridzs Latvije, Slawek Latala, Joe Lentz, Jerry Li, Christina Lund Madsen, Margaret Maruszkin, Sam Punch, Barry Rigal, Karlis Rubins, Hans Secelle, Barnet Shenkin, David Stern, Jan Swaan, Katie Thorpe, Jan van Cleeff, Elisabeth van Ettinger, Toine van Hoof, Peter Ventura, Jian Jian Wang, Tadashi Yoshida.

**Proxies:** David Bakhshi, David Berkowitz, Marc van Beijsterveldt, Herman De Wael, Patrice Foulon, Alan Grant, Anna Jannersten, Jan Kamras, Knut Kjærnsrød, Fulvio Manno, Daniel Miles, Liam Milne, Margaret Maruszkin, Douglas Newlands, Pierre Schmidt, Barbara Seagram, Hans Secelle, Elena Ström, Jerry Thorpe, Barbara Travis.



## Presidents Report 2021

One of my colleagues in the press room is fond of saying in his reports...“Suddenly, nothing happened’. His second favorite phrase is ‘there was a short pause, followed by a longer pause’.

This last year has seen roughly equal doses of these two elements. With the world of live bridge on hold, our attention seems to have been focused on what will happen in 2022 rather than what happened this year.

Since so much of our budget is linked to the awards and since the 2020 awards were partly in abeyance, waiting for the Hainan Bridge Festival to resume, much of my planning was impossible to implement. And the Delta Variant put paid to most of what we did decide on.

In summary, the 2020 award ceremony in Hainan was canceled and we announced the remaining winners in early November. 2021 awards are being dealt with today. The 2022 HBF festival will seek to resume the prize giving for the 2022 winners.

Our membership has largely stayed with us. Perhaps the absence of live bridge has led to column material becoming more relevant?

As usual the list of people who I should thank is long; and I apologize if I have missed anyone. The team includes all our sponsors – of course. But also Katie Thorpe and John Carruthers for all their work on bulletin and membership, secretary Elisabeth van Ettinger and Per Jannersten, without whom the organization would grind to a halt.

However, special thanks this year to David Stern for his setting up the AGM and also in facilitating the annual award judging. I hope that the membership will appreciate receiving the pdf with all the candidates for the 2020 play prizes. I’d also like to thank Marek Wojcicki for his work with the late Jeff Goldsmith, in bringing the latter’s column material on to our website. The more material we can make accessible to our members, the better.

**Barry Rigal**  
**President IBPA**



# The International Bridge Press Association

## Chairman's Report

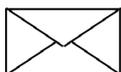
During the extraordinary years 2020 and 2021 I have had time to update the database and also time to revise the Constitution with great help from Allan Falk.

To the exceptional things belong a question that came all of a sudden from Jeff Goldsmith, who wanted to donate his bridge related work to us. I am glad that I got an opportunity to correspond with this extraordinary personality, albeit too short a time. Anyhow, after some seventy email back and forth both formal and technical matters were swiftly settled thanks to Jeff's efficiency. See further IBPA's web site if you are not familiar with Jeff and his legacy.

I should also report that our organisation is in very good standing. The economy is rock solid and membership is up. But we cannot sit on our hands; I have to remind you that members are expected to propose new members.

Uppsala October 29

Per E Jannersten





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**Amsterdam, 03-11-2021**

**Secretary's Report**

The second exceptional year with Covid. No live Championships but fortunately a lot of interesting online Tournaments .Communication between the Executives was scarce and only trough mails. The AGM will be online again, we might consider to keep it online even when live Championships will be held again.

Elisabeth van Ettinger

## 2021 Editor's Report

The past calendar year was a bit different from any other year. There were multiple accusations of and convictions for online cheating. We reported these extensively in the Bulletin, along with many people's 'solutions' to the problem. For the first time in the history of bridge, the players took matters into their own hands, refusing to play against a player convicted of cheating, but who was nevertheless allowed to compete in the European Qualification tournament for the Bermuda Bowl. The fallout from this event extended back home to the Italian Trials, where the same player was allowed to compete, not without further controversy.

Most of the Bulletin reports were about tournaments held online – it is only now, in the latter part of 2021, that we are returning to face-to-face bridge. We also diversified a bit in the Bulletin, presenting stories about a doctoral programme in bridge, research into Alzheimer's and bridge, bridge in a company of acrobats, a photographer nominated for annual awards for his stunning photographs in a bridge club, and an academic conference on bridge. As well, we presented articles on 'system' and conventions.

Nevertheless, as usual, reports were presented from tournaments all over the world, many by the 'usual suspects' but many also authored by new members recruited by Per Jannersten, Barry Rigal and David Stern. I thank all contributors and exhort them, and other members, to continue sending me material for publication.

My 'minders', the "Gang of Three", who keep me in line, remain unchanged and as loyal as ever: P.O. Sundelin, who has reviewed every issue of the Bulletin for technical accuracy since I became editor (going on 20 years); Phillip Alder, who makes certain I keep my tenses consistent, among many other things; and Katie Thorpe, who, as well as proofreading every Bulletin, ensures that every deal in the Bulletin contains 52 unique cards and that if I say the dealer is East, the dealer actually is East. Without them, the Bulletin would no doubt be of lesser quality than it is. I sincerely thank them and look forward to the day when I can treat them all to dinner and a lovely bottle of red.

John Carruthers,  
Editor, IBPA Bulletin  
Kingsville, Ontario  
November 9, 2021



## IBPA Membership Report 2021 as of November 3, 2021

<b>Total membership for 2021</b>	281	
Over 80 years of age	7	
Honorary Members	9	(see list on next page)
Sponsored Members	116	(see page 3)
Deceased 2021	1	(Jeff Goldsmith)

### Distribution of members

Zone 1 (Europe)	153
Zone 2 (NA)	70
Zone 3 (SA)	4
Zone 4 (Asia & Middle East)	4
Zone 5 (CA&C)	1
Zone 6 (Asia Pacific)	17
Zone 7 (South Pacific)	33
Zone 8 (Africa)	0

### Members Pre-Paid for Future Years

2022	9
2023	2
2024	2
2025	2
2026	1

**List of 2021 Honorary Members**

*(Does not include a printed bulletin)*

Jose Damiani  
Sven-Olov Flodqvist  
Denis Howard  
Per Jannersten  
David Rex-Taylor  
Barry Rigal  
Gianarrigo Rona  
Tommy Sandsmark  
PO Sundelin

**2020 Members Resigned/Did not renew**

In total, 33 members from 2020 did not renew in 2021.

Eight were new members who paid for memberships in Wuhan.

Eight were IBPA prize winners.

These five specifically resigned due to lack of active involvement in bridge primarily and/or health reasons.

Ron Feldman  
Jon-Egil Furunes (also a member from Wuhan)  
Eric Kokish  
Christian Vennerod  
Elke Weber

Submitted by Katie Thorpe (IBPA Membership Secretary)  
November 4, 2021

## Sponsored members IBPA 2021

Aalander, Thomas  
Alder, Phillip  
Amoils, Les  
Asgard, Jo-Gaute  
Babsch, Fritz  
Badrankova, Sveta  
Barden, Paul  
Baseggio, Franco  
Berg, Lynn  
Bergen, Marty  
Bertheau, Peter  
Bessis, Michel  
Boehm, Augie  
Bourke, Tim  
Branco, Marcelo  
Brock, Sally  
Cantor, Martin  
Carr, James T  
Carruthers, John  
Chen, Sun  
Colmachiro, Mel  
Courtney, Michael  
Cox, Peter  
Cronier, Philippe  
Cullin, Per-Ola  
de Wijs, Simon  
Dunitz, Mitch  
Eliasson, PG  
Elmroth, Gunnar  
Fleet, Richard  
Fleisher, Marty  
Foster, Julian  
Fredin, Peter  
Gidwani, Dilip  
Gjellstad, Harald  
Grainger, David  
Grant, Audrey  
Grant, Alan  
Gulevich, Anna  
Hainan Bridge  
Hammond, Nicholas  
Harris, David  
Helms, Jerry  
Hollander, Al  
Horton, Mark  
Hudson, Alex  
Jacobs, George  
Jacobs, Jos  
Jannersten, Per  
Jarzabek, Pawel

Johansson, Peter  
Johnson, Bertil  
Kjaernsrod, Knut  
Klinger, Ron  
Kvangraven, Nils  
Larsson, Jan-Eric  
Larsson, Jessica  
Lawrence, Mike  
Lee, Linda  
Lee, Ray  
Lema, Fernando  
Lemborn, Suzanne  
Lester, Stephen  
Li, Jerry  
Li, Xinyi  
Li, Yiting  
Libbrecht, Wilfried  
Lundby, Ib  
Madsen, Christina Lund  
Manley, Brent  
Martinez, Roberto  
Mendes de Leon, Guy  
Morgan, Jacob  
Moquist, Lars  
Munday, Sue  
Nickell, Frank  
Norton, Ben  
Novrup, Svend  
Parrish, Adam  
Pierce, Ceri  
Punch, Samantha  
Qin, Zuojun  
Rasmussen, Jane  
Roberts, Mike  
Rubins, Karlis  
Russell, Douglas  
Seagram, Barbara  
Senior, Brian  
Shenkin, Barnet  
Sidar, Erdal  
Sommer, Povl  
Sorling, Bjorn  
Sprinkhuizen, Thibo  
Starkowski, Wlodzimierz  
Stewart, Frank  
Strom, Elena  
Sundelin, PO  
Swaan, Jan  
Tammens, Kees  
Thorpe, Katie

Todd, Robert  
van Ettinger, Elisabeth  
Ventura, Peter  
Walker, Karen  
Wang, JianJian  
Wang, Nan  
Wasiak, Artur  
Wierszycki, Marian  
Wojcicki, Marek  
Wojcieszek, Jakub  
Woodruff, Laura  
Xu, Michael  
Yeh, Chen  
Zagorin, Dan  
Zhu, Qingfeng  
Zines, Dennis

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Management of  
International Bridge Press Association  
611 Pleasant Street  
Miles City  
Montana 59301  
USA

I have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the International Bridge Press Association ("the Association") as of December 31, 2020 and the related statements of income, retained earnings, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

### Scope

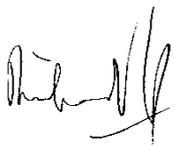
I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United Kingdom. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

### Qualification

In common with similar organisations, it is not feasible for the association to institute accounting controls over cash collection from donations, subscriptions and fund raising prior to initial entry of the collections in the accounting records. Accordingly, it was impracticable for me to extend my examination beyond the receipts actually recorded.

### Audit Opinion

In my opinion, except for the effect on the financial statements of the matter referred to in the preceding paragraph, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at December 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.



Richard Fleet

Westcombe  
Moorcourt Close  
Sidmouth  
Devon  
EX10 8SU

6 September 2021

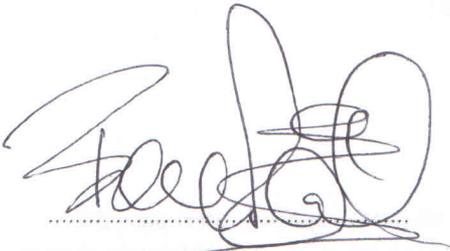
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
For the year ended 31 December 2020

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**Approval**

The financial statements which appear on pages 4 to 5

were approved by the President and Treasurer on and are signed by:



PRESIDENT



TREASURER

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

INCOME STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2020

2019		2020	2021	2022
Actual	Income	Actual	Projection	Budget
9,466	Subscriptions Email	11,764	11,000	11,000
288	Subscriptions Printing	144	200	200
2,500	WBF Grant	2,500	2,500	2,500
15,500	Award Sponsors	16,500	5,500	16,500
6,000	"Fun Bridge"	3,000	0	0
	0 Gain on Exchange	2,268	0	0
<b>33754</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>36176</b>	<b>19200</b>	<b>30200</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
13,200	Bulletin Editor's Fee	13200	13,200	13,200
1,000	Bulletin Hands Columnist	1,000	1,000	1,000
504	Bulletin Printing and Postage	504	500	500
2,580	Honorary and Sponsored Members	3,225	4,900	5,500
95	President's Expenses	0	0	0
500	Treasurer's Allowance	500	500	500
1,000	Travel and Accommodation- Hainan	0	1200	1200
500	Membership Secretary Allowance	500	500	500
2,950	IBPA Award Prizes	1,900	1,900	1,900
300	IBPA Award Costs	0	300	300
143	Credit Card Charges	219	200	200
73	Bank Charges	55	100	100
50	Miscellaneous Costs	70	100	100
702	Loss on Exchange	0	0	0
<b>23597</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>21173</b>	<b>24400</b>	<b>25000</b>
<b>10157</b>	<b>Excess Income (Expenditure)for the year.</b>	<b>15003</b>	<b>-5200</b>	<b>5200</b>

Note Subscriptions

6,026	Subscriptions due	6,142
288	Subscriptions due (printing)	144
860	Subs. Paid in advance	2,397
0	Subs paid in advance (printing)	0
2,580	Honorary and Sponsored Members	3,225
<b>9754</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>11908</b>
9,466	Subscriptions Email	11,764
288	Subscriptions Printing	144
<b>9754</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>11908</b>

**INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
as at 31st December 2020

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	84,034	86,749
Trade Debtors	0	13,500
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>84,034</b>	<b>100,249</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Award money in advance	2,000	3,000
Subscriptions Received in Advance	2,397	205
Trade and other payables	0	2,404
WBF Grant in advance	0	0
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,397</b>	<b>5,609</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>79,637</b>	<b>94,640</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Retained profit brought forward	64,007	74,164
Profit and Loss Account	10,157	15,003
Jourdain Bequest	5,473	5,473
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>79,637</b>	<b>94,640</b>

**INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

for the year ended 31st December 2019

	\$	
<b>Cash Funds as at 1st January 2020</b>	71,933	84,034
Net Inflow(Outflow) of Cash during the year	12,803	447
Exchange Gain / (-Loss) in Euro account	-702	2,268
<b>Cash Funds as at 31st December 2020</b>	<b>84,034</b>	<b>86,749</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31st December 2019

**1 Subscriptions paid in advance**

The treatment of Subscriptions in advance has been changed so that only Subscriptions received relating to the actual year are recorded as Income and Subscriptions received for the following year are shown as Prepayment in the Balance Sheet.

**2 Assets**

Computers, printers and fax machines are all written off to Nil in the year of purchase.

**3 Cash Funds 31st December 2020**

	US\$	US\$
Paypal	4,018	0
Handelsbanken US\$	33,538	44,051
Handelsbanken Euro Account	34,203	35,328
US Stripe Account	174	7,370
<b>Per Balance Sheet</b>	<b>71,933</b>	<b>86,749</b>

**4 Jourdain Bequest**

As at 31st December 2019	6,328	5,473
Printing, Packing and Postage of handbooks	-855	0
As at 31st December 2020	<b>5,473</b>	<b>5,473</b>

**For International Bridge Press Association AGM Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup>  
2021**

**Proposal from Treasurer to meeting re subscriptions**

- that the International Bridge Press Association dues and the extra for print remain unchanged for the 2022 Financial Year that is US\$43 for on-line subscription and US\$115 for paper subscription

Payments made in June to September to be 1.50 the above figures to cover the following year.

Payments in October to December to be 1.25 the above figures to cover the following year.

Richard Solomon

Treasurer, IBPA

# Constitution of the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA)

The Constitution was approved at the Annual General Meeting in Albuquerque 1994, amended at the AGMs in Hammamet 1997 and Veldhoven 2011; and revised 2021.

## I) NAME, LEGAL STATUS, etc.

1. The name of the association is the International Bridge Press Association (“IBPA”). IBPA is controlled by its full members.

2. IBPA is a not-for-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Montana, USA. The Registered Office of IBPA shall be situated in the State of Montana, USA. The address of the Registered Office, and the contact addresses of IBPA and its Officers, shall be published in the most recent edition of the IBPA Bulletin.

## II) OBJECTS

The objectives of the IBPA are:

1. To assist its members to publicize throughout the world the game of contract bridge (“bridge”) in all forms of media.

2. To assist its members generally in their bridge-related professional activities.

3. To support the principle of free media and to oppose censorship.

4. Generally to perform such other acts as may be incidental or conducive to the promotion or teaching of bridge and to the attainment of these objects.

5. To liaise with the World Bridge Federation, WBF Zonal organizations, national bridge organizations, state and regional bridge associations and other sponsoring bodies, in order to assist IBPA members in their bridge media activities.

## III) MEMBERSHIP

Any person of good moral character is eligible to membership of the IBPA subject to the terms of this Constitution and approval by the Executive Committee. No person shall be denied membership because of gender, race, color or creed.

### 1. Types of membership:

*Full members* have full rights. *Associate members* have no voting rights and are not eligible to serve as officers or members of the Executive Committee. *Honor members* can have full or associate membership.

### 2. Requirements of membership:

(a) **Full members:** Those eligible for full membership include bridge journalists, writers and reporters, all publishers, editors and regular contributors to bridge periodicals and to other periodicals regularly publishing features about bridge and its players, all professional producers of bridge on electronic media, writers about bridge, and any other persons as the Executive Committee may deem fit and desirable, conforming by profession or interest to the aims and objectives of the IBPA.

(b) **Associate members:** All persons in good standing who have an interest in the activities of the IBPA but lack the qualifications required for full membership.

(c) **Honor members:** Such persons, not necessarily confined to the world of bridge, nominated by the Executive Committee and confirmed at an AGM as honor members. Honor members shall enjoy their status for life without payment of dues.

### **3. Applications for membership**

(a) Applications for membership shall be made in writing, accompanied by:

- (i) full name and address;
- (ii) a description of the applicant's qualifications, if the application is for full membership;
- (iii) the prescribed application fee;
- (iv) the prescribed membership dues;
- (v) any additional fee(s) as provided in IBPA's bylaws or regulations; or decided at AGM.

(b) The application shall be transmitted to the Membership Secretary. Membership and category of membership is subject to approval or rejection by the Executive Committee. Any person whose application for membership is rejected may appeal that decision to the next AGM of the IBPA.

(c) By applying for membership the applicant agrees that the IBPA will collect, and keep on file, the member's personal data that IBPA requires; whether in relation to legal requirements, internal regulations, other legitimate purposes, or to facilitate membership services.

(d) By applying for membership, or renewing membership of the IBPA, the member waives his/her right to have disputes with the organization resolved in any court of law; and agrees to accept a final binding arbitration before the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") by a single arbitrator.

### **4. Membership continues unless:**

- (a) The member fails to pay membership dues;
- (b) Membership is denied by the Executive Committee;
- (c) The member resigns.

## **IV) MANAGEMENT**

1. There are five officers of the IBPA, consisting of the President, the Executive Vice-President, the Organizational Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The officers shall be elected from amongst full members. The election shall be at the AGM in even numbered years for a two year term of office commencing no earlier than the date of the AGM and no later than six months thereafter.

The respective officers shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as are specified in this Constitution, and such additional powers or duties as the Executive Committee shall lawfully from time to time determine.

2. The President is the highest ranking officer of the IBPA and its head. He is the official spokesman of the organization and its organizational leader. If the President's position falls vacant, [s]he shall be replaced by the Executive Vice-President, or, if the Executive Vice-President is not available, by the Organizational Vice-President.

3. The Executive Committee shall fill the position of any other officer falling vacant.

4. The Chairman is elected at the same time, and for the same period, as the five officers. The Chairman is a member of the Executive Committee and has full voting rights.

5. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the five officers listed above; the Chairman; and nine members elected for three years on a three year cycle, with three places falling vacant each year.

6. The Executive Committee shall appoint persons to fill the offices of:

- (a) Membership Secretary;
- (b) Awards Secretary;
- (c) Bulletin Editor;

on such terms as are laid down from time to time by the Executive Committee. Such persons need not be elected members of the Executive Committee; where they are not, they may be co-opted to the Executive Committee but without voting rights.

7. The Control Committee consists of the Auditor and the General Counsel, who are to agree on the third member of the Control Committee. The Control Committee's mission is to exercise supervisory powers over the management of the organization. As such, the Control Committee has the power to:

- (a) nominate persons at the AGM for election as officers and to the Executive Committee;
- (b) to call Extraordinary General Meetings of the IBPA;
- (c) to call for any papers, minutes and accounts emanating from, or which have been before, the Executive Committee.

8. The Auditor shall report to the AGM after having scrutinized the Treasurer's fiscal account, all vouchers and bank statements.

9. *President Emeritus* is an honorary title given to a Past President of the IBPA.

10. The AGM can, upon prior recommendation by the Executive Committee, elect *Zonal Vice-President(s)*. The Zonal Vice President(s) shall be eligible to carry out the duties of the President in his absence but only in so far as they have been invited to carry out such duties by the President. Zonal Vice President(s) may attend meetings of the Executive Committee but shall not have a vote.

## **V) MEETINGS**

1. The convocation of full members in a duly summoned General Meeting (GM) is the highest authority of the IBPA.

2. Proceedings of a GM shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of order.

3. A quorum for a GM shall consist of at least 20 full members. The chairman of the meeting shall call for an adjourned meeting to be held within seven days if there is no quorum. The quorum for such an adjourned meeting shall be at least 20 full members.

4. There shall be an Annual GM (AGM) once in every calendar year, or at such time as is convenient, but in any event not more than 18 months after the previous AGM.

5. Notice of an AGM must be published at least 30 days in advance, together with a preliminary agenda. Accidental omission to give notice to a member, or non-receipt of notice by a member, shall not invalidate the proceedings of an AGM.

6. Full members have the right to raise issues at an AGM. Issues to be raised at an AGM shall be sent to the President not later than two months before the AGM.

7. The Treasurer shall make his report, with supporting documentation, available for members not less than seven days before the AGM.

**8. The AGM shall:**

- (a) elect a chairman to lead the meeting;
- (b) approve or disapprove the summoning to the meeting;
- (c) adopt an agenda for the meeting;
- (d) pay homage to deceased members;
- (e) receive the President's written report on developments since the previous AGM;
- (f) receive the written report of the Chairman;
- (g) receive the written report from the Secretary; the Membership Secretary; the Editor; and the Organizational Vice President, which shall include a summary of the report(s) from the Zonal Vice-President(s);
- (h) receive the written financial report and proposed budget from the Treasurer;
- (i) receive the Auditor's report;
- (j) determine the acceptability of the financial statement;
- (k) adopt a budget for the coming fiscal year and decide dues for the immediate approaching calendar year;
- (l) act on proposals as stated in the agenda;
- (m) Elect, when the Constitution so requires, for the term specified: the President; the Executive Vice-President; the Organizational Vice-President; the Treasurer; the Secretary; the Chairman; the Auditor; the General Counsel; any Zonal Vice-President(s) and Honor Members;
- (n) elect three members (out of nine) of the Executive Committee for a term of three years, and fill by election any vacancies on the Executive Committee for shorter terms;
- (o) elect three members (of three) to the nomination Committee;
- (p) bestow IBPA awards;
- (q) hear any other miscellaneous business not entered on the agenda. No vote shall be taken under this point, but the AGM may decide to enter the matter on the agenda for the next GM;

9. An Extraordinary GM (EGM) can be called by the AGM; the Executive Committee; the Control Committee; and upon written request of not less than one third of all full members identifying the purpose of the meeting;

10. Notice of an EGM, together with a preliminary agenda, must be published by the Secretary at least 15 days in advance of the meeting. An EGM shall only address issues identified in the agenda. Accidental omission to give notice to a member, or non-receipt of notice by a member, shall not invalidate the proceedings of an EGM;

## **11. Voting**

(a) Only full members have a vote.

(b) The chairman of the meeting may declare an agenda item out of order for stated reasons. Such declaration may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of those attending the meeting.

### 11.1 Voting at a physical meeting

The chairman of the meeting will cast proxy vote(s) in accordance with the voter's instructions, provided the member has lodged a proxy with the Secretary at least 8 days before the meeting with instructions how to cast the vote on an item published in the draft agenda. Proxies lodged with the Secretary less than 8 days before the meeting may be accepted at the discretion of the meeting.

Proxies may be revoked by a signed notice to that effect by the member appointing the proxy. Such revocation shall be delivered to the Secretary no later than the day before the meeting. By attending the meeting, a member will automatically invalidate his/her proxy for that portion of the meeting for which the member is present.

Resolutions put to a vote shall be decided by a show of hands, unless a poll is demanded by at least five attending full members. Such poll, if demanded, shall be taken as the chairman of the meeting directs, and must include the proxies held by the chairman of the meeting. In the case of a tie, the President, or in his absence the chairman of the meeting, may cast a tie-breaking vote.

### 11.2 Voting at a virtual meeting

Voting at virtual meetings is either by instant electronic voting or written ballot.

Ballots shall accompany the agenda for the meeting. Ballots must set forth all proposed actions that require a vote, and include the slate of nominations when an election is part of the agenda. Ballots must provide an opportunity to vote for or against each proposed action.

Members who do not attend the meeting may exercise their voting rights by delivering their ballots to the Secretary no later than two hours before the meeting. A member who has submitted a ballot can revoke it either by a signed notice to that effect delivered to the Secretary no later than two hours before the meeting, or by attending the meeting.

### 11.3 Voting at a combined virtual and physical meeting

Members present at a physical meeting follow the rules outlined in §8.1, whereas those who do not attend the meeting physically follow the rules stated in 8.2. Electronic and physical voting shall be carried out simultaneously.

## **VI) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. Between General Meetings the Executive Committee (EC) is the highest authority of the IBPA. Without prejudice to its other powers the EC shall have the power to manage, conduct, supervise and control the business and activities of the IBPA; and to do all such lawful acts and things as are not by statute, or the Certificate of Incorporation, or this Constitution, or IBPA's bylaws, or regulations adopted by a General Meeting, reserved exclusively to the members.

2. EC meetings are called by the President; or by the Secretary on request of two EC members.

2. Six members constitutes a quorum of the EC. Decisions can be made by vote, poll, or a combination thereof, where each member have one vote.

## **VII) CODE OF ETHICS**

A member must respect the target of truth in published work, and act in conformity with copyright law. Persistent dishonesty by a member in published material, defamation, or gross copyright infringement, would be cause for reference to an IBPA Disciplinary Proceeding.

A member who is suspended by National Bridge Organisations for cheating in bridge, or convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment would be subject to discipline on that basis alone.

Only full members may submit matters for consideration by the CDP. Such reference must be made to the Chairman or President or, if involving both the Chairman and President, to a member of the Executive Committee.

### **VIII) DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

1. (a) Upon the Executive Committee receiving a written complaint alleging, or (b) upon the Executive Committee's own initiative charging, that a member has conducted himself in such a way as infringes the IBPA's Constitution, the IBPA's code of ethics, or brings the IBPA into disrepute, then the Executive Committee shall appoint an ad hoc Committee on Professional Discipline (CPD).

2. The CPD so appointed shall investigate the matter, and only the matter, complained of. A CPD shall consist of not less than three and no more than seven members. If the CPD consists of five or fewer persons, no two of them shall be from the same National Bridge Organisation (NBO). If the CPD consists of six or seven persons no three of them shall be from the same NBO.

#### **3. The CPD shall:**

(a) give notice in writing of its enquiry and the substance of each and every allegation to the member against whom such allegation is made;

(b) have made reasonable efforts to accommodate such member, fix a date and place at which the enquiry into the allegation(s) shall be held following informal, but reasonably fair procedures;

(c) at the enquiry allow such member to defend himself against each allegation and allow him to make a statement of his own case and to call witnesses, but not allow him to be represented, save at the CPD's discretion;

(d) determine the result of each allegation against such member. In its determination the CPD shall seek to be unanimous, but if this is impossible then the determination of the majority shall be the determination of the CPD;

(e) in the event of the CPD finding that an allegation against such member has been established, recommend to the Executive Committee that such member be reprimanded, censured, suspended and/or expelled, summarizing the evidence relied upon and the findings of the CPD.

4. The decision of the CPD shall be communicated both to the Executive Committee and to the charged member promptly after the CPD concludes its deliberations. The Executive Committee may (but need not) consider further written representations by such member concerning the CPD's decision, and any response on behalf of the CPD. Any written representations must be made to the Executive Committee within one month of such member receiving notification of the CPD's decision. The Executive Committee shall, not less than one month, nor more than two months, after receiving written notification of the CPD's decision, either:

(a) ratify such decision or

(b) impose a lesser penalty than that adjudged by the CPD.

5. Such decision of the Executive Committee shall be final and binding on the IBPA and to the charged member. Decisions reached by the Executive Committee may be reached by majority voting, but a member shall only be expelled from membership by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Executive Committee members present.

6. The CPD and Executive Committee shall have the right to publish their decisions in the IBPA Bulletin together with the relevant details including the name of the disciplined member.

## **IX) AMENDMENTS**

No amendment, or change, shall be effected to this Constitution except by a three-quarters affirmative vote in two successive AGMs.

## **X) INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

1. No part of the net earnings of the IBPA shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the IBPA shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments, and distributions in furtherance, of the purposes set forth above.

2. No substantial part of the activities of the IBPA shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the IBPA shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Constitution, the IBPA shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on:

(a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or

(b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

4. The five elected officers of the IBPA constitute its Board of Directors, and the number of directors constituting the board is five.

5. Upon the dissolution of the IBPA, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the IBPA, dispose of all the assets of the IBPA exclusively for the purposes of the IBPA in such manner, or to such entity or entities organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at that time qualify as exempt organization(s) under of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine.

6. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be subject to the direction of the court of general jurisdiction in which the principal office of the IBPA is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization(s) as the said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes as detailed in §5 above.

## **XI) DISSOLUTION**

1. Proposal for dissolution of the IBPA can be made by any full member.

2. Such proposal must be published by the Secretary in the Bulletin, or otherwise, at least six months prior to the AGM.

3. The proposal will need a three-quarter majority vote in two successive AGMs to be put into effect.

4. If dissolution should be decided, paragraph X) 5. provides the rules for the distribution of IBPA assets.