



The International Bridge Press Association

IBPA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, December 10, 2022 online at 9 a.m. EST, 3 p.m. CET

Minutes

Attendance

There were 20 participants and 8 proxies (see list in point 14)

1. Quorum

We have a quorum.

2. Recommend the Chairman of the AGM

Barry Rigal is elected as Chairman of the meeting, proposed by David Stern. Approved by all.

3. Remembrance

This year we lost Sven-Olov Flodqvist and Maureen Hiron. We honoured them with a minute of silence.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM on December 11 2021 Online

Moved by David Stern and seconded by Per Jannersten. No questions asked.

Approved by all the participants and proxies.

5. Officers' Reports

Chairman Per Jannersten states that the absolute priority of the IBPA is members. Increasing the number of members will increase the value of our Organization for its members.

Secretary Elisabeth van Ettinger was happy to attend at two live Championships so she could see some of the Executives in the flesh. She also announced that she is not available for re-election. She did enjoy doing the work for a couple of years but is not getting any younger. She does hope to continue to attend future Championships.

President Barry Rigal expresses that as far as bridge is concerned this year was almost back to normal with 4 big live Championships. But in the organization of the IBPA dramatic changes are taking place. John Carruthers is retiring as editor of the bulletin. For many years he has been the face of the bulletin and for many members the only editor they have known. Fortunately, Brad Coles will replace him. Elisabeth van Ettinger is stepping back as Secretary, and we are lucky to find a good replacement in Katie Thorpe. We also have a new **Auditor** in Jerry Thorpe. It is already clear that Jerry has taken his role very seriously. Contributions to the bulletin are made by a small group of members who work very hard. Let us hope that the number of contributors will expand in the

future. Barry expresses his thanks to the Executive for the hard work done. He also stresses the importance of finding new and hopefully younger members.

6. Appointees' Reports

Editor John Carruthers explains that this is his last editor's report because he is retiring at the end of this year. He is sure the bulletin will be in good hands with Brad Coles. This year the bulletin was a bit more diverse since articles were submitted by new members. John wants to express a special thanks to Tim Bourke who has contributed with at least 4 deals every month for about 20 years. He also thanks his proof-readers/editors P.O Sundelin, Katie Thorpe and Philip Alder. Together they made as good a bulletin as they were able to. Brad Coles does not want to give his ideas about the bulletin at this moment. He feels that is too soon.

Membership Secretary Katie Thorpe reports that we have lost about 30 members last year. Membership is still lopsided. We have only 1 member from the Caribbean/Central American zone and no members from Africa. David Stern asks to change the name of Asia/Pacific since that is confusing. They have not yet decided on a better name.

Treasurer Richard Solomon could not present his report live due to the big time difference so Per Jannersten presents his report. Richard has kindly agreed to stay on for a year more. He will be difficult to replace so we welcome all suggestions.

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

Per Jannersten presents the financial statement. Due to the Covid restrictions in China the Hainan Bridge Festival (HBF) was cancelled and we missed \$11,000 in sponsor money. The amount should be recovered next year. We have a plan B if China would not open up. HBF can, if necessary, move the festival and the award ceremony to Hong Kong. Jerry Thorpe had sent his approval of the financial statement. The meeting passed the financial statement with 16 + 8 (proxies) in favour and nobody against.

8. Approval of the financial statement for 2022

The treasurer recommends that the membership dues for 2023 remain unchanged at \$43. Approved unanimously.

9. Approval of budget for 2023 and decision on membership dues for 2023

Approved unanimously.

10. Elections of Executive Members

Re-election for President Barry Rigal (USA). Unanimous

Chairman Per Jannersten (Sweden). Unanimous

Vice-President David Stern (Australia). Unanimous.

Organisational Vice President Dilip Gidwani (India). 15+8 in favour. 1 abstention.

Treasurer Richard Solomon (New Zealand). Unanimous.

Secretary Katie Thorpe (Canada). Unanimous. This means that we are back to having the Secretary and Membership Secretary in 1 person.

Re-election of Francesca Canali: Unanimously.

Paul Linxwiler: 15+8 in favour and 1 abstention.

Samantha Punch (Scotland), unanimously.

Honorary Chairman Zhu Qingfeng: Barry Rigal explains that Mr. Zhu is on our side. Zhu has set up and organizes the ongoing sponsorship of \$11,000 by the Hainan Bridge Festival. He was elected unanimously.

General Counsel Allan Falk: Allan has already given useful advice. 15+8 in favour, 1 abstention.

Auditor Jerry Thorpe: who stepped in with short notice when the job felt vacant. Elected unanimously.

11. Ratification of the revised Constitution

The proposal for an amended version of the Constitution was approved at the 2021 AGM. The approved Constitution was now ratified by the [2022] AGM and thereby came into force.

12. Awards

The awards of 2021 were presented by Barry Rigal.

The jury consisted of Barry Rigal, J.J. Wang, Jan van Cleeff, David Stern, Gilad Ofir, Peter Fredin, Marek Wojcicki,

Best Declarer Play: Terry Brown player and Ron Klinger, Liam Milne, Julian Foster journalists.

Best Defence: Boye Brogeland player and John Carruthers journalist.

Best Bid: Alex Gipson and Pail Gipson players and J.J. Barnet Shenkin journalist.

Best Junior Deal: Ben Norton player and Paul Barden journalist.

Book of the Year: John Carruthers with *Bridge with Another Perfect Partner*

Personality of the Year: Christian Lahrman (Denmark) and Ansul Batt (India). They are both youth players who have won already several World Championships

Alan Truscott Memorial Award: Marek Malysa for his research on the impact of bridge on the slowing down of symptoms of Alzheimer. This will make a great boost to the importance of bridge in the world.

13. Any Other competent business

David Stern suggests changing the name of our Organization to International Bridge Media. The idea is that this change will include other forms of communication and not only the written articles and therefore could have more appeal to younger people. Per, Barry and John are enthusiastic about this suggestion.

Marek Malysa tells us about his upcoming research with brain scans to get a better idea about brain activity in combination with bridge. He is asked to write a little article about this for the bulletin.

Malgorzata Maruszkin is making plans for senior bridge and bridge for physically disabled people. She is trying to get Bridge as a sport into the Paralympics. A challenge is bridge for the visual impaired. She would like to come in contact with visual impaired people who would be interested in this. Barry is enthusiastic about any plan that would make the Olympic Organization interested in Bridge. David asks Malgorzata to write an article for the Bulletin.

Samantha Punch is looking for volunteers that would be capable of translating academic findings into more understandable communication for an large public. Volunteers could be people with skills in graphic design or communication.

Barry suggests that we keep having the AGM's in the future online so everybody who wants to can join. He thanks David Stern for his terrific organisation of this meeting.

14. List of attendees to the AGM

Kaj Backas, Paul Barden, John Carruthers, Simon Cochemé, Bradley Coles, Elisabeth van Ettinger, Per Jannersten, Bob Jones, Joe Lentz, Jerry Li, Malgorzata Maruszkin, Samantha Punch, Barry Rigal, David Stern, Jan Swaan, Jerry Thorpe, Katie Thorpe, Marek Wojcicki, Marek Malysa, Allan Falk.

Proxies:

Hans Secelle, Patrice Foulon, Anna Jannersten, Jian Jian Wang, Jan van Cleeff, Jerry Thorpe, Rakesh Kumas, Liam Milne