

Notice of the 2004 Annual General Meeting of the International Wader Study Group

The Annual General Meeting of the International Wader Study Group will be held at 09.00 hrs. on Saturday 6 November during the Annual Conference at Papenburg, Germany. Nominations for the election of Officers and other members of the Executive Committee may be made in writing to the General Secretary not less than 14 days before the AGM. Each nomination must be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up members and accompanied by the nominee's written consent.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2003 AGM
3. Chairman's report (Hermann Hötker)
4. (a) Treasurer's report (Bob Loos) (b) Auditor's report (Martin de Jong & Tom van der Have)
5. Membership Officer's report (Rodney West)
6. Editor's report (Humphrey Sitters)
7. Project Coordinator's report (Ole Thorup)
8. Conference Coordinator's report and future conferences (Petra de Goeij)
9. WSG-Wetlands International Liaison Officer's report (David Stroud)
10. WSG Annual Meeting 2005
11. Election of Officers and other members of the Executive Committee
12. Any other business

*Rowena Langston,
General Secretary,
Walnut Tree Farm, Hinderclay,
Diss, Norfolk IP22 1HT, UK*

Officers' reports for 2003

Chairman's report (Hermann Hötker)

The past year has been filled with WSG activities on several levels. This is evident from what appears in the *Bulletin* and other recent and forthcoming publications. The group is the organisation for wader enthusiasts worldwide, and is developing a more and more comprehensive range of activities related to waders and their habitats. Examples are the CHASM initiative that has already spawned two special workshops on Arctic shorebird monitoring during the WSG conference in Papenburg. Another example is the workshop on migration turnover led by the BTO at the same conference. WSG involvement in wet grassland conservation, a major concern in West Europe, has been revitalised. Also, earlier this year, a new memorandum of cooperation was signed between Wetlands International and the WSG. This provides for the WSG to continue as WI's wader specialist group and sets out a framework for cooperation between both organisations until 2007.

The Group runs so well because there is a (mad) band of people doing all the work for nothing! I would like to thank all members of the EXCO for their high personal involvement. I would particularly like to mention the 'Publications Unit' (Humphrey Sitters and Les Underhill and his team), the 'Business Unit' (Bob Loos, Rodney West and Robin Ward), and all the others who are vital for running the group:

Rowena Langston, Petra de Goeij, David Stroud and Ole Thorup. I also would like to thank our honorary presidents Mike Pienkowski and Gerard Boere and our vice presidents Theunis Piersma and Nick Davidson for their good advice. The EXCO had a brief interim meeting during the Global Waterbird conference in Edinburgh. During that remarkable conference the WSG was continuously represented by a stand, mostly manned by Rodney West. Thank you for this, Rodney.

In spite of the still very informal character of the Group, the services it is offering – notably in its publications and in its relationships with other organisations – are professional. However, I would like to reiterate that nearly all the work of the group is done on a voluntary basis, and that there is no guarantee that this will continue for ever. In order to maintain the same high level and quality of output as we have in past years, we need money and the voluntary involvement of many skilled people. In both aspects, you may be able to help.

We are grateful for any donation to the Group, and the Group may even be considered as a beneficiary in one's last will. The WSG's most stable and the most important income, however, is membership subscriptions. A substantial increase in membership would make all the difference to the running of the Group. Some processes would become easier, some quicker, but more particularly, economies of scale would

