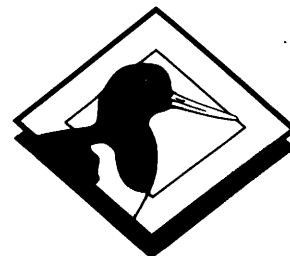

WADER STUDY GROUP



BULLETIN 62 August 1991

Wader Study Group Annual General Meeting

**Texel, The Netherlands
5 October 1991**

The 1991 Annual General Meeting of the Wader Study Group will be held during the annual conference, at the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, Texel, The Netherlands at 0900 hours on Saturday 5 October.

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the last AGM, held on 6 October 1990 at Commachio, Italy (*Bulletin* 60: 15-16).
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Membership Secretary's

Report.

5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Editor's Report.
7. Co-ordinator's Report.
8. Proposal from the Treasurer for a subscription increase.
9. Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee.

The Co-ordinator, H. Hötger, and the Treasurer, S.J. Sutcliffe, complete their terms of office this year. The General Secretary, P.L. Ireland, stood down during

the year and the Executive Committee co-opted P. de Goeij to fulfil this role.

The Executive Committee therefore propose the election of the following officers:

Co-ordinator H. Hötger

Treasurer S.J. Sutcliffe

General Secretary P. de Goeij

As advertised in *Bulletin* 61, the Executive Committee also propose the election of the following member of the Executive Committee:

G. Boere

In addition, the Executive Committee now confirms its proposal for the election of the following member of the Executive Committee:

P. Canevari



Alternative nominations for the officers listed above and for ordinary members of the Executive Committee may be made by any members of the Wader Study Group. Nominations must be signed by a proposer and seconder, and must include a signed statement from the candidate that they are willing to stand. All these people must be fully paid up members of the Wader Study Group. Nominations should be sent to the acting General Secretary, P. de Goeij, to arrive by 30 September 1991.

10. Any other business.

Petra de Goeij, *General Secretary*

Chairman's Report

A major activity during the last year has been the consolidation of the very wide range of activities in which the Group is involved. The enthusiasm of members has led to a very large number of these. Sustaining this a large task for WSG, all of whose officers are volunteers, with other full-time (and usually more than full-time) professional duties. Consequently, and as foreshadowed in my report last year, your Executive Committee has been attempting to break the larger tasks into more manageable units. This in turn, requires that members are prepared to offer their assistance in sharing the loads, to allow their Group to continue fulfilling its successful role. There are a whole range of tasks of varying sizes that need-

doing. If you think you may be able to make some time available to help, do please contact one of the officers to discuss this.

Perhaps the most striking way, to most members' views, that our new approach (outlined more fully in the August 1990 issue) is working is in the context of the *Bulletin*. By dividing the load, the editors are rapidly bringing this back on schedule. This is no mean feat, as it effectively required producing twice the normal number of *Bulletins* in a year which also produced extra supplements, as well as further improvement to the *Bulletin's* appearance. Our thanks go to David Stroud, Rodney West and their team for this.

I should also thank Nick Davidson for continued involvement in the hand-over, as well as considerable assistance to me in my tasks. This has been particularly helpful also in the transition of General Secretary roles.

Phil Ireland felt unable to continue with task and we thank him for his efforts over the last few years. The Committee has co-opted Petra de Goeij to act as General Secretary until substantive arrangements can be made at the Annual General Meeting.

The annual conference in Italy was a highlight of the year, with its excellent and friendly organisation by our hosts, the Istituto Nazionale di Biologia della Sel-

vaggi "A Ghigi". We look forward to yet more widespread meetings in the next year. In parallel with this, the Co-ordinator has been pursuing the development of more local activities, the linking of which has always been one of WSG's major roles. The contents of the *Bulletin* over the past year have certainly reflected a high level of activity in very many areas and we look forward to further development.

Catching up in *Bulletin* production has financial implications as well as work ones for the editorial team. The WSG subscription has remained steady since 1988, despite inflation. Major decisions are required at the AGM as to the future levels of activity of the Group and the subscription necessary for this. These matters are addressed elsewhere in the *Bulletin* and I look forward to input from members in this and other important matters.

Editor's Report

Since the previous Editor's Report (*Bulletin* 58: 2-4) there have been very substantial changes to the editorial team, the editorial process and the appearance of *Bulletins*. These changes have been explained in detail in *Bulletin* 59: 1-3. Despite all this upheaval and the introduction of new editing and production systems, it is very pleasing to report that at the time of writing (June 1991) *Bulletins*



are rapidly coming back onto schedule at last. Below we summarise the changes that took place during 1990 and the production of *Bulletins* 58-60.

Nick Davidson stepped down as Editor at the 1990 AGM. The Executive Committee's original nominee as Editor withdrew prior to the AGM, and David Stroud agreed to stand as elected Editor. David took on the leading-editorial role from October 1990 and the editing of *Bulletins* 59 and 60.

It had been clear to the Executive Committee for some time that the editorial task was proving too great a time commitment for one person. Accordingly, we took the opportunity to expand and restructure an editorial team. As of *Bulletin* 59, David Stroud, assisted by Judy Stroud, Nicola Crockford and Martin Nugent, deals with the overall management of *Bulletin* material and the editing of scientific paper contributions. Rodney West, assisted by Nick Davidson, has responsibility for 'newsletter' items and regular features. In addition, Rodney West deals with the considerable task of *Bulletin* layouts and production.

Our New World Editors, Greg Ruiz and Peter Hicklin, continue in this role, and we are taking steps to expand this geographical part of the editorial team to cover other parts of the world.

As part of our policy of continu-

ing to improve the appearance and readability of *Bulletins* we took the opportunity, at the same time of changing the editorial team, to move to a desktop publishing system for *Bulletin* production. This is handled by Rodney West, who has used the system to substantially redesign *Bulletin* layout so as to improve readability. This new layout first appeared in *Bulletin* 59, and we are making a number of further minor improvements to layout and text style in more recent *Bulletins*.

The three 1990 *Bulletins* contained 127 pages, a reduction on the very large *Bulletins* produced during the previous year. This in part arose from the layout changes, and in part from our attempts to bring production back on schedule. As a consequence of the major editorial changes *Bulletin* 59 reached members very late. *Bulletin* 60, however, followed very soon afterwards, and at the time of writing *Bulletin* 61 is in press. Hence we have already greatly reduced the delays, and anticipate that by the end of 1991 *Bulletins* will be back on schedule. A large vote of thanks must go to all members of the editorial team for their huge efforts in achieving this.

In addition to production of ordinary *Bulletins*, editing has continued on the two major *Bulletin* Supplements arising from the Ribe Conference in 1989. These will be printed and

circulated to members during the second half of 1991, the first being the 107-page supplement on breeding waders of wet grasslands. In addition, a third supplement, on disturbance to waterfowl on estuaries, is in production jointly with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. We hope that this will be published at the end of 1991.

It is always a risky thing to say, but we hope that we have now resolved the major problems of *Bulletin* scheduling, and that exciting and attractive *Bulletins* will now reach members on time. There are many exciting articles in preparation for future *Bulletins*, but we are always pleased to receive more. If you have not yet written something for the *Bulletin*, why not make 1991 the year to change that and send us a paper, an article, a report of your current work, or some suggestions for further improvements to the *Bulletin*. We look forward to hearing from you!

Nick Davidson & David Stroud

Co-ordinator's Report

In 1990 the work of the co-ordinator consisted of several rather different activities. There was work involved with a total of three different WSG conferences in 1990. The first one was the organisation of the conference in Italy.

The second conference was the



WSG Workshop on waders on wet grasslands was had been held in Ribe in 1989. The proceedings of this workshop were compiled mainly in autumn 1990. I tried to complete the overview on the situation of wet grasslands in different European countries by inviting several more papers in addition to those originally given at the conference itself. The proceedings, which will be issued as a supplement to the *Bulletin*, will be published at about the same time as this report.

The third conference to mention here is that in Odessa in April 1992. The WSG received the kind invitation for this conference from the Odessa State University in 1990, and the preparations started in the second half of the year (see *Bulletin* 59).

Besides organising conferences, one of the major activities of the group is to organise (or preferably to help organise) scientific projects. Those members who have regularly read the *Bulletin* over the last 14 years (and there is proof that such individuals really do exist!) may have noticed that there have been a tremendous number of WSG projects during this period. Some of these projects are finished and their results have been published; others are still in operation; and some have a less clear fate. Although the rules for Wader Study Group projects states that there should be a progress report for each continu-

ing project at least once a year, the rate of reporting of projects in the *Bulletin* has been unsatisfactory during the last few years. I have tried to clarify the situation of WSG projects, mainly in order to improve the feedback of information for the membership.

The first step on this was to prepare a list of all WSG projects and the papers which resulted from them. This list was circulated to all project leaders. As the corrections and additions are now nearly complete, the project overview will be published in one of the forthcoming *Bulletins*. In future an annual progress report for the *Bulletin* will be required for each active WSG project. This report may be short and just state the phase the project is in. It should also give a list of recent publications originating from the project. As well as this, I will try to compile an overview of current WSG projects once a year. Hopefully these measures will increase the profile of this important part of the Group's work.

In 1990 the 'regionalisation' of the WSG made progress. Several candidates for regional co-ordinators or regional editors were found. In particular, it was pleasant how readily the members of the Advisory Panel helped with this activity. A list of regional co-ordinators and regional editors will be available at the next WSG meeting on Texel. A meeting of the participants of the inland wader counts in Münster organised by the Biol-

ogische Station Münster in autumn 1990 may be regarded as a regional Wader Study Group conference. About 80 people, mainly from Germany, attended the two - day conference.

Although each single task of the co-ordinator in 1990 was not too time-consuming (with the exception of editing the wet grasslands proceedings), all activities together put quite a burden on someone who in theory and practise is employed for tasks other than co-ordinating the WSG. It became necessary, therefore, to look for some assistance. This was done successfully in two ways. Firstly, David Fleet helped with the editing of the wet grassland proceedings. I would like to thank him very much for his patient proof reading and his tireless efforts to improve the English in the texts. Secondly, a new Institute of the University of Kiel, the Forschungs- und Technologiezentrum Westküste (Research and Technology Centre Westcoast) agreed to employ students for some technical assistance for the WSG in 1991.

Herman Hötter

Treasurer's Report

The Accounts for the year to 31 December show a small surplus but this is a misleading picture since two of the 1990 *Bulletins* remained outstanding at the end of the year. The costs associated with the production



and postage of an issue average around £1,800 so that if we had been up to date a substantial deficit would have resulted.

I know that the editors are making strenuous efforts to produce the outstanding issues and that there has been a great deal of discussion about the format of future *Bulletins* which will reduce the delays and control costs but the inevitable result for 1991 (if they are successful) will be a large financial deficit. A change in subscription levels will be required to see the Group into the mid-1990s as indicated elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

The Colour Ringing Register has not been as active as in previous years, but it is hoped that a self-financing package can be arranged for the future. There remains within the Group funds a sum for further work in the Hebrides.

During 1991 I expect further calls upon the Group's funds for new equipment to help with the editorial work especially, but with the continued support of the membership our future is assured, for our bank balance remains fairly healthy. We can surely cope well with the 1991 recession in the UK.

S.J. Sutcliffe

WADER STUDY GROUP RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 1990

	1990	1989
Receipts:		
Subscriptions	4,955	5,680
Interest received	790	737
Colour Marking Register	-	1,708
Sale of past Bulletins	434	141
Sale of publications (Note 2)	-	66
Profit on sale of car stickers	3	3
Publication grant	1,000	-
TOTAL INCOME	£7,182	£8,335
Deduct expenses:		
Bulletin costs: Printing	4,310	2,865
Envelopes	53	73
Typing	244	122
Postage	1,127	620
Editorial expenses	24	267
Secretarial and miscellaneous	338	139
Colour Marking Register (Note 1)	65	2,114
Hebrides Project costs	-	465
Conference costs	190	-
Bank charges	8	14
Depreciation on micro-computers and printers	663	1,026
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£7,022	£7,705
Excess of income over expenditure	£160	£630



WADER STUDY GROUP BALANCE SHEET AS
AT 31 DECEMBER 1990

	1990	1989
Accumulated Fund (Note 3)		
Per Balance sheet as at 1 January 1990	10,694	10,064
Excess of Income over Expenditure	160	630
Adjustment (Note 4)	1,100	-
	£11,954	£10,694
Represented by:		
Assets		
Microcomputers and printers	1,632	2,295
(net after deducting depreciation)		
Cash at bank, on deposit and in hand	10,427	10,424
Debtors	18	297
Stock of car stickers	155	-
	12,232	13,016
Deduct:		
Creditors	(32)	(2,228)
Subscriptions in advance	(246)	(94)
	£11,954	£10,694

Notes:

1. The Colour Ringing Register has been brought up to date but there has been little activity in this area by the Group during the year. It is hoped to get the Register fully operational and self-financing during the current year.

2. The sale of publications (Breeding Waders etc.) is now included under the Past Bulletins heading.

3. The Accumulated Fund includes the Hebrides Fund which stands at £2,182 and the Cannon Net Fund which is £774.

4. The adjustment to the Accumulated Fund is in respect of a reserved liability for conference costs in 1984 which is no longer required.

General - There is no income or costs for the 1990 Conference which was organised and funded directly by the host Institute.

Proposed 1992 subscription increase

Setting a subscription level is a real headache for the WSG officers. On the one hand the Bulletin Editors have always tried to publish all the suitable material which they receive and on the other the Treasurer has to try to balance the books and to forecast for several years ahead what costs will be.

The subscription level of £12 was set several years ago and now does not cover the costs of

Group *Bulletin* production or allow the Group to consider updating its editorial computer equipment. It is therefore time to try to look forward for, say five years, and try to set a level of subscription that will be level for at least that period of time. More frequent changes in subscription are extremely costly in terms of time to implement. They are also quite inconvenient to members paying by some of the simple methods. WSG has therefore tried, in recent years, to set a level of subscription which compensates a planned deficit in later years by a planned surplus in earlier ones.

The Group is financially fairly healthy in the sense that there is a fund of money in the bank. Some of this is earmarked by the conditions of its receipt, for example for the Hebrides work, and some is required to replace one of the ancient BBC compu-



ters with a more up-to-date PC. The problem is that as the Editors catch up with Bulletin production, it is now clear that future editions will average at least 48 pages (possibly two issues of 40 pages and an annual bumper edition of 60+ pages). The costs today of this-level of output are around £5.00 per issue and only a fairly drastic cut in *Bulletin* size (or a huge increase in membership) would reduce this cost significantly.

It follows that a sensible subscription today would be £15 but looking ahead we have decided to propose a £17 level in the hope that it can be held for a number of years. This arrangement should also allow the Group to keep its equipment up to date and will enable editors

some flexibility in Bulletin size during the next few years.

It is several years since the last increase. The present proposal approximates to the same price as the earlier one at its time of introduction despite the increase in size and quality of Bulletins in the interim. Most of the costs of Supplements have been met by funding from elsewhere, so that the whole package represents very considerable value.

We sincerely hope that the Group will continue to attract your support and interest. More members will help to stabilise subscriptions well into the future and your assistance in attracting wader enthusiasts into the Group would be very much appreciated.

Steve Sutcliffe, Treasurer

Membership Secretary's Report

The membership at the end of 1990 showed a decline on the previous year. This is probably a distorted figure influenced by the fact that subscription renewal forms did not go out until sometime in 1991 (Table 1).

A more detailed geographical summary of the membership is provided in (Table 2). The figures represent the number of current subscriptions to the group including both individual members and institutions.

Table 1 WSG membership at 31 December 1990

	Continuing	New	Leaving
Britain & Ireland	155	8	15
Rest of Europe	161	23	22
New World	45	3	13
Rest of World	94	6	5
Totals	455	40	55

Table 2. WSG membership country by country

UK	152	Norway	3
Netherlands	38	Italy	9
USA	27	Ireland	3
F R Germany	20	Portugal	5
Canada	15	South Africa	3
Australia	12	Brazil	2
Spain	11	Switzerland	4
Sweden	8	Pakistan	3
Denmark	6	Japan	2
Belgium	11	Austria	2
France	13	Bulgaria	2
German D R	11	Canary Is.	2
Poland	11	USSR	11

In addition there is one member from each of the following countries; Czechoslovakia, Finland, Ghana, India, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Mauritania, Mexico, New Zealand, Phillipines, Tanzania, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe

