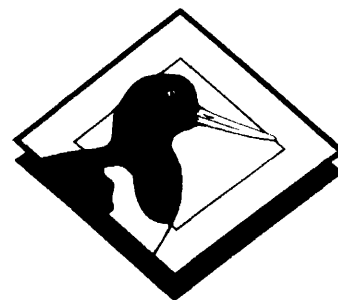


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# WADER STUDY GROUP



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## **BULLETIN 66**    December 1992

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### *Minutes of WSG Annual General Meeting at Hajdúszobozló, Hungary 5 September 1992*

#### **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from the following: Treasurer Steve Sutcliffe, Membership Secretary Rodney West, Chairman Mike Pienkowski, and from: Bob Loos, Pavel Tomkovich, Alexander Yurlov and Elena Lebedeva. Vice-Chairman Theunis Piersma chaired the Annual General Meeting in the absence of the Chairman Mike Pienkowski.

#### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 5 October 1991 on Texel, The Netherlands (published in *Bulletin* 63) were accepted as a correct record.

#### **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

The Vice-Chairman asked the Officers to highlight the main points of their reports (published in *Bulletin* 66) and update them in respect of recent developments. He invited members to raise questions on any points.

#### *Chairman's report*

The Vice-Chairman Theunis Piersma focussed on a few highlights in the Chairman's report. Dividing editorial work amongst a team has been a great success, and the *Bulletin* is still on schedule. A renewed enthusiasm for the WSG is noticeable in the Americas; the old 'New World' Section is in the process of transformation into a Western Hemisphere Section to aid communication amongst wader workers there. Thanks were expressed to retiring Treasurer Steve Sutcliffe, Warden of Skomer, "a man of quiet confidence" who has overseen our financial affairs so well and creatively for many years.

#### *Co-ordinator's report*

Hermann Hötter summarised progress with WSG projects and stressed that project co-ordinators have to report once a year on progress. Hermann has started to co-ordinate the results of expeditions in Siberia, with the Little Stint *Calidris minuta* as first species. This year a start will be made with a new WSG project: *Breeding waders in Europe 2*.

#### *Editor's report*

David Stroud, on behalf of the editorial team, summarised progress with the publication of the *Bulletin*. An expanded team has successfully brought the *Bulletin* back on schedule. The next problem to be addressed is to reduce the time from receipt of papers to their publication. To aid the clearing of this backlog, *Bulletin* 66 will be larger than usual. He indicated that the *Bulletin* 64 Supplement, *The migration of Knots*, had now been published and would shortly be circulated to all members. Rodney West was thanked for all his efforts in the design and production of the *WSG Bulletin* in addition to his tasks as Membership Secretary.

#### *Membership Secretary's report*

There was a healthy increase of over 80 members in 1991, a trend which is continuing. Producing the supplements (without any extra cost to members) has served as a good advertisement for the WSG.

#### *Treasurer's report*

The Treasurer had reported in *Bulletin* 66 a 1991 turnover of £14,000. In spite of a deficit of £3,000 in 1991, the Group is nevertheless in a healthy financial situation following last year's subscription increase and the financial support we receive for producing supplementary *Bulletins*.



## RETIREMENTS

Theunis Piersma spent some words on the retirement of Mike Pienkowski and Steve Sutcliffe, both of whom were unfortunately unable to be present:

"Mike is not shy, but he is retiring. This is actually the first WSG meeting that Mike has been unable to attend in view of extremely heavy work pressures back home in Britain. As tokens of our great gratitude your Executive Committee has procured two ornithological works of art for the two retiring Committee Members. For Steve, we have a reprint of an illustration from the old Naumann volumes: a hand coloured copper-plate print of the Black Guillemot or "teisti". Mike Pienkowski will receive an original Christopher Schmidt painting of a Grey Plover.

Before we go on to the election of the new Officers there is a matter of some major importance to address. Some more recent members of the Group may not realise that Mike is the last remaining Officer who was also amongst the far-seeing 'founding fathers' in 1970. Mike's continued involvement in a variety of rôles over this whole 21 year period has been an enormous contribution to the continuing success of the Wader Study Group.

In no small part, the current open, friendly and sharing philosophy results from his and his fellow Officer's guidance.

Rather than let him entirely escape from the Group into a peaceful retirement we have looked for ways for the WSG to maintain links with him. For the first time ever, your Committee therefore proposes to create the post of Honorary President, which we will be offering to Mike. We are delighted to say that he has indicated his willingness to accept."

The participants unanimously agreed to this proposal with warm applause.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

No other nominations having been received, the meeting elected the following:

Chairman: **Gerard Boere**

Treasurer: **Bob Loos**

Vice-Chairman: **Nick Davidson**

Committee members: **Pavel Tomkovich, Alexander Yurlov, Elena Lebedeva**

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was announced that, in recognition of the close links already maintained between the WSG and the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB), this relationship was proposed to be formalised. This would be achieved for the purpose of linking with IWRB by WSG acting in the rôle of IWRB's Wader Research Group. It was stressed that this did not, in any way, change the full independence of WSG, but rather it was a formal recognition of the rôle that WSG already plays in international co-ordination and dissemination of wader research.

The Committee had co-opted Nick Davidson to act as IWRB-WSG liaison-officer, an arrangement that would be formally put to the next Annual General Meeting. IWRB would put these proposals to their Executive Board meeting in Florida in November 1992.

Following a question from the audience the Chairman underlined that the WSG will stay just as independent as it always has been.

The meeting endorsed these proposals.

The formal agreement between WSG and IWRB to implement this link was

being progressed and details would be published in a future *Bulletin*.

[STOP PRESS: The recent IWRB Executive Board meeting in Florida has now endorsed these arrangements and further information will appear in a future *Bulletin*].

For the 1993 WSG-meeting the Executive Committee has accepted the enthusiastic offer of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust to organise another meeting in Great Britain, near the 1988 venue of Ipswich.

Gerard Boere made a short personal comment following his election, and stated that it will be difficult to follow in the footsteps of Mike Pienkowski as Chairman. He thanked Mike Pienkowski for his long and dedicated work for the Wader Study Group and invited him to the next Annual General Meeting in Great Britain.

*Petra de Goeij, General Secretary*

