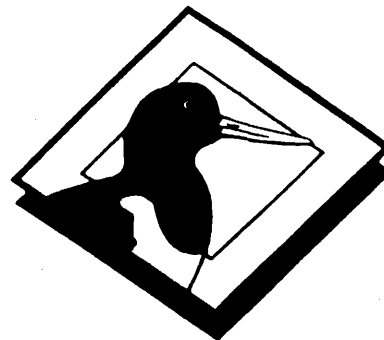


# WADER STUDY GROUP



*BULLETIN 78 December 1995*

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## **Minutes of the WSG Annual General Meeting 1995 Aveiro, Portugal**

The 1995 WSG Annual General Meeting was held at 09.00 hrs on Saturday 16 September 1995 in Aveiro, Portugal.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Rob Butler, David Stroud and Rodney West.

### **2. Minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 22 October 1994 at Büsum, Germany, and published in *WSG Bulletin 75*: 1-2 were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

### **3. Chairman's Report**

Gerard Boere presented his report of the year and noted even though he would like to take a more active rôle in the Committee, he had the feeling that the Group is running smoothly. He congratulated the editorial team on the new cover of the *Bulletin*. He

noted that 1995 was the 25th anniversary of the WSG and stressed his hope that the Group would continue to develop in the same spirit as had prevailed for the last 25 years.

The report was accepted.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Bob Loos summarised the 1994 financial status of the Group as published in *WSG Bulletin 77*, as well as presenting 1995 figures up to July. The excess of income over expenditure is largely due to the large amount of voluntary work by a lot of WSG members. As foreseen, the temporary difficulties of 1993, owing to changes in banking procedures and treasurer have now been resolved. This year there had, so far, been no untraceable receipts or payments.

The projected budget for 1996 indicates an excess of income over expenditure, among other things, due to an expected increase of income from selling back copies of the *WSG Bulletin* and *Bulletin Special Issues*, but he noted that this is not a never ending source of income! Members will get NOW the opportunity to buy previously published *WSG Bulletins* and *Special Issues* at reduced rate; an information sheet and order form will be sent at the same time as the 1996 renewal forms.

The auditing committee (Peter Evans & Les Underhill) accepted the financial report for 1995 which was also endorsed by the AGM.

### **5. Membership Secretary's Report**

Membership has been substantially the same for the last two years.

Sending out renewal forms separately from the *Bulletin* in November has helped a great deal in ensuring that the membership fees are received early in the year. However, it was noted that a lot of members still pay too late, resulting in substantial additional costs for the Group. Prompt renewal of membership is something with which *all* members can assist, so as to avoid the need for the Membership Secretary to send out large numbers of *Bulletins* through the year.

The report was accepted.

### **6. Editor's Report**

The new *WSG Bulletin* layout was enthusiastically welcomed. The editorial team has grown but David Stroud can always use extra help and further volunteers would be welcome.

The continuing need for fresh artwork for the *Bulletin* was noted. A brief summary was given concerning progress with several volumes of the new WSG series *International Wader Studies (IWS)*.

The report was accepted

## 7. Co-ordinator's Report

Hermann Hötter announced that the WSG Kentish Plover project would be officially completed during the Kentish Plover Workshop in Aveiro. The results of the Kentish Plover Project, will hopefully be published as an *IWS* volume. A new WSG project currently being planned is "Waders breeding in Europe", which will be co-ordinated by Ole Thorup.

The report was accepted.

## 8. WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer's Report

Nick Davidson reported that the formal co-operation link with IWRB is working well. He has written a short report on the development of the link which will be published in a future *Bulletin*. WSG links with the Western Hemisphere have been strengthened through recent contacts between Western Hemisphere shorebird researchers and European WSG members during a WWSRN workshop in Ottawa (Canada) in spring 1995.

Opportunities to develop further contacts with the Australasian Wader Study Group will occur at the IWRB conference in Malaysia in October 1995.

The major task for the WSG as IWRB Wader Research Group is to deliver technical expertise for the updating of population data on waders. This will result in the need for a formal "Wader Populations Panel" to co-ordinate and facilitate such work. Nick Davidson will contact experts on species and regions.

The report was accepted.

## 9. Elections to the Executive Committee

The following were elected for a further term of office on the Executive Committee:

Gerard Boere	Chairman
Nick Davidson	Vice-Chairman
Bob Loos	Treasurer.

Elena Lebedeva, Pavel Tomkovich and Sacha Yurlov were elected for a further term on the Executive Committee.

To strengthen the links with the Americas, Rob Butler was elected to the Committee following nomination by two Wader Study Group members.

Les Underhill and Peter Evans were elected for a further term of office with the auditing committee.

## 10. Subscription rates for 1996

It was reported that there will be no subscription rate increase in 1996, although there may need to be some changes in the membership fees when paid in foreign currencies owing to changed exchange rates. It was stressed that members who pay on time get will get especially good value for their 1996 subscription: not only three full *WSG Bulletins* but also several *International Wader Studies* volumes.

Those who do not pay their subscriptions on time (the renewal forms will be sent out in November/December) will get a reminder and will have to pay an increased amount due to a postage surcharge (necessary to cover the costs of separate *WSG Bulletin* mailing). However, we will try to wait as long as possible before adding a surcharge for late renewal of membership. **It was stressed again that it would greatly benefit the Group if members renewed their subscriptions on time and also helped by recruiting new WSG members.**

## 11. Future WSG conferences

The 1996 conference will be held in Belgium, to be convened by Patrick Meire and Eckhart Kuijken. The organisers are the Flemish Institute for Nature Conservation and the Flemish Ornithological Societies.

It was noted that in 1997 there had been an offer from Denmark. Ole Thorup has offered to organise a meeting in August 1997. There was no objection from the floor against this earlier than usual date.

Les Underhill in South Africa had offered to host a meeting directly after the IOC in 1997 whilst Rob Butler has proposed to hold a meeting in North America or Canada. The latter invitations were currently under consideration by the Executive Committee.

## 12. Any other business

No other business was raised.

## New Bulletin layout

More observant readers will have noticed the subtle change in *Bulletin* layout this issue. Papers will in future be grouped biogeographically according to three broad 'flyways': the African-Eurasian flyways, the Western Hemisphere flyways, and the Asia-Pacific flyways. This reflects also the recent development of international conservation initiatives linked to these flyways, for example the recent finalisation of the Bonn Convention's African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement.

Such a structure also reflect the triple structure of the new Wetlands International organisation formed from the formal merger of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Bureau, the Asian Wetland Bureau and Wetlands for the Americas.

And no, the inclusion of an Asia-Pacific section in the new layout does not imply that the *Wader Study Group Bulletin* will be making a hostile takeover bid for *The Stilt*! We do hope however, that the biogeographical ordering of papers in this way will aid our readers.