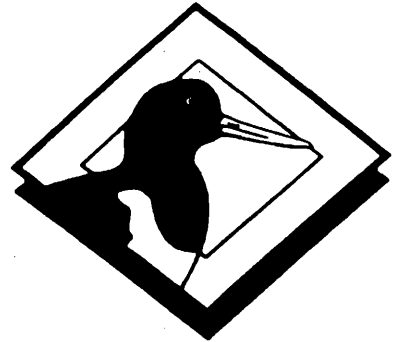


WADER STUDY GROUP



BULLETIN 84 December 1997

Minutes of the 1996 WSG Annual General Meeting, Denmark

The 1997 WSG Annual General Meeting was held at 09.00 hrs on Saturday 9 August 1997 during the annual meeting in Vester Vedsted, Denmark.

Introductory note

A combination of the early date of this year's Annual Conference and administrative complications in finalising the text of our new constitution meant that Annual General Meeting papers were not, in accordance with our current constitution, circulated to all members in advance of the AGM. Those eligible to vote at the AGM endorsed the Chairman's proposal that, in line with standard diplomatic practice the meeting should vote on each of the proposals and that these votes should be confirmed (or otherwise) by a subsequent postal ballot of all members. (*Editor's note. Ballot papers were sent to all members in October 1997.*)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Les Underhill, Mike Pienkowski and Jan van Gils.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 9 November 1996 in Kasterlee, Belgium and published in *Bulletin* 81:1-2 were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

3. Officer's Reports and Constitution

The draft constitution published in *Bulletin* 83: 57-62 and circulated to members attending the AGM has needed some minor modifications to comply with the regulations for registering as a Dutch Society. These will be circulated to all members for endorsement as part of the postal ballot.

4. Chairman's Report

Gerard Boere reported that the development of the new Constitution and preparations for registering the Group as a Dutch Society have been the most significant activities for during the last year. The report was accepted.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated at the start of the conference. There was an error on the form: on p3 "1997" should be "1995". The estimated budget for 1998 is the same as the budget for 1997. The WSG is in a financially healthy situation. The auditing committee (Peter Evans & Les Underhill) have accepted the financial report for 1996 and the budget for 1997. The report was accepted.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

Rodney West mentioned that the WSG gains and loses about 30 members every year, resulting in a stable membership overall. Members were asked to let Rodney know of any potential new members. In the last year, a Web site has been set up. Rodney suggested that in future Recent Publications and colour-marking items could be included. Rodney asked all members to give him material for inclusion on the Web site. The report was accepted.

7. Editor's Report

This year the WSG can celebrate the most Bulletin pages ever published in one year. The International Wader Studies volume on "Great Basin Shorebirds" has been printed and will be sent out shortly. The Odessa

volume is scheduled for April 1998. Julianne Evans has produced the August *Bulletin*, her first as Editor, on schedule. Gerard Boere thanked David Stroud for all the work he has done as Editor of the *Bulletin*, especially for bringing the *Bulletin* back on schedule and for improving the quality. The report was accepted.

8. Project Co-ordinator's Report.

Ole Thorup reported that the Kentish Plover project is almost finished, but that there is a funding problem and therefore it is not known when it will be published. The Inland Wader Counts project needs people-power. The Red Knots in South America project has been expanding: there has been a successful international expedition along the South and North American shoreline with a huge input from volunteers, but overall funding is still a problem. The project on Breeding Waders has made some good progress. The first phase will be to update the population estimates for Europe: this will be discussed further at a workshop during the conference. There is a good network of national co-ordinators but no National Co-ordinator for Iceland yet. At the beginning of 1997 a new project was proposed by Eddy Wymenga (the Netherlands): the Ruff spring migration project. Unfortunately it was proposed too late for full circulation of details in time for spring 1997. Therefore it was decided to make 1997 a preliminary year to start the project officially as a WSG project in spring 1998. A new project with WSG involvement, the Non-estuarine Coastal Waterfowl Survey (NEWS) will cover many parts of the European coast. The report was accepted.

9. Survey Co-ordinator's Report

No report was presented.

10. WSG-Wetlands International Liaison Officer's Report.

Nick Davidson reported that the formal link with Wetlands International, in which the WSG acts as Wetlands International's Specialist Group for waders, is valuable to both groups. In September 1996 Wetlands International moved from Slimbridge in the UK to Wageningen in the

Netherlands. The main current task for the WSG in its specialist group role is to help provide new global population estimates for waders: anyone who can help with information on a species or a group of wader species should contact Nick. One of the good things in filling the gaps in knowledge on recent population numbers has been the successful 1997 Mauritania expedition. The urgently needed redevelopment of the Wader Database (managed for Wetlands International by IBN-DLO in the Netherlands) is now progressing through work by Lieuwe Haanstra at IBN. Anyone with midwinter count data to contribute is encouraged to contact Lieuwe. A functional Wader Database is an essential precursor to the production of an "African-Eurasian Wader Flyway Atlas", a project for which the WSG in its specialist group role has been asked to develop a proposal. Nick Davidson is moving in September to work at Wetlands International and will be stand down as Liaison Officer to avoid conflict of interest. David Stroud has been co-opted by the Executive Committee to replace him from 1998. The report was accepted.

11. Elections to the Executive Committee

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

Petra de Goeij - General Secretary

Julianne Evans - Editor

Pablo Canevari - Committee member

Hermann Hötter - Committee member

12. Subscription rates for 1998

An unchanged subscription rate for 1998 in English pounds was proposed and accepted. The Treasurer noted that there may need to be changes in the membership fees in some foreign currencies due to recent major fluctuations in exchange rates.

13. Future Conferences

The 1998 meeting will be held in October in Hungary (at the north-west edge of the Balaton Lake), hosted by Gyorgy Szimuly. The 1999 meeting will almost certainly be in France. An official offer has been received from the BTO in the UK for the year 2000: the Committee will be accepting this offer. It was suggested that this 2000 meeting should somehow celebrate the millenium. One idea suggested during the meeting was to organise an extra day with the theme: "What has happened in Wader Research over the years? What will happen in the future?" There will be an extra meeting in August 1998 in South Africa connected with the IOC. There are thoughts also about an extra spring meeting in 1999 on the east coast of the United States.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

OFFICER'S REPORTS FOR 1996

The following Officers' reports were not received in time for the last issue of the *Bulletin*:

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Not yet received

Gerard Boere

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The total membership of the Wader Study Group at 31 December 1996 was 628 a slight increase on 1995. However, our aim of a 750 membership is still some way off.

As stressed last year in the Chairman's Report, all members can assist the group to grow by persuading colleagues and friends to join. If all members joined at least one new member, the financial base of the Group would allow us to consider a much wider range of activities.