

A Group Homepage has been created on the World Wide Web and we expected to develop this facility in the future, making it more interactive with perhaps colour marking sightings requests and the recent publications database being made available. Anyone who has any ideas for the future development of our Web site, please contact me on [rodwest@thenet.co.uk](mailto:rodwest@thenet.co.uk).

Rodney West

## **1997 WSG Annual Conference, Vester Vedsted, Denmark**

The Annual Conference was a great success. Ole and his colleagues worked very hard to make it a highly enjoyable event and the unusually hot weather gave the whole weekend a holiday atmosphere. Many thanks are due to all involved.

### **HOW WE FELT IN DENMARK THIS YEAR**

It was the first ever visit to Denmark for me and the other Hungarians. After sleeping in the car at the German part of the Wadden Sea, we drove towards Vester Vedsted, Denmark to participate in the Annual Conference of the Wader Study Group. We felt very tired but we soon forgot the long, tiring journey after a fine shower and a more delicious dinner.

I was so excited for the next few days because all the guys in the group were very kind to me and so cheerful, like me. I was surprised in 1992, when I firstly attended the AGM in Hajduszoboszlo, Hungary. I thought that every participant would be a strict-looking man without smiles and jokes. Here are some examples of the big contrast between this idea and

what I actually saw. The Chairman, Gerard Boere, is always making excellent jokes, such as during his welcome and also during his presentation on the Slender-billed Curlew Expedition "*There are no roads, there are only directions*". We have other excellent members like Nick Davidson (he looked wonderful on the sandy Danish beach during the excursion this year). Never forget the smile of Julianne Evans. Anyone who heard her laugh could identify her among a huge number of people. *[I was too vain to edit this out! Ed.]*

When I saw the members of the Executive Committee outside the conference venue, I realized that it would soon be time for me to introduce myself to the public. I became a little bit nervous thinking about this. I have never spoken to such a large number of people in English before. On Friday evening I had a long discussion with Bob Loos and Petra de Goeij on the coming year's conference, since BirdLife Hungary is going to organise it. I felt a little bit easier during this time, with the help of some bottles of Carlsberg and Tuborg Beer, when another familiar guy appeared. He was Theunis Piersma. He had a simple question "*Would you, Gyorgy, be the chairperson for the first session tomorrow?*" It was after I had driven more than 1600 km from Hungary to Denmark. What could I say? In the end, there was no problem with this and it was even useful to see people from the stage.

The next big step for me was on Saturday, when I was asked by the Chairman to invite all the participants to attend the AGM in Hungary in 1998. Rodney West kindly asked me to provide a wine tasting in Hungary. Be sure, Rodney!

It was a great surprise for all the Hungarians to see how kind and laid-back the Danish people are. The conference in Vester Vedsted, Denmark was organised very professionally. Everybody could see that it had taken a long time to prepare and was hard work to provide such a good service during the week-end. Ole Thorup looked very tired at the end of the day. His colleagues was excellent guys. I think everybody

should say a big "Thank-you" for this hard work.

Of course, we tried to study this well-organized conference because next year we have to do one a bit better in Hungary. I can tell you nothing now except come to Keszthely, Hungary in the middle of October 1998, and enjoy a week-end together with these funny, kind people, the members of the Wader Study Group. See you all next year.

Gyorgy Szimuly

## **INTERNATIONAL WADER STUDY GROUP MEETING IN SOUTH AFRICA, 12-15 AUGUST 1998**

A special meeting of the International Wader Study Group will be held at the South African Museum, Cape Town, in association with the 22nd International Ornithological Congress. The IWSG meeting is from lunch time on Wednesday 12 August to the evening of Thursday 13 August, with a full day excursion to Langebaan Lagoon on Friday 14 August. A Curlew Sandpiper workshop will be held on Saturday 15 August.

Registration for the IOC takes place on Sunday 16 August, with the opening ceremonies on 17 August. Durban is a two-hour flight from Cape Town, and there are several flights per day.

Any delegates arriving in Cape Town on flights on 11 or 12 August will be met at Cape Town International Airport, provided we know times and flight numbers.

The most cost-effective way of making flight bookings (certainly on flights within South Africa and probably on flights to South Africa), hotel accommodation in Cape Town (as well as in Durban), arranging car hire, etc, will be through the professional conference organizers for the IOC, Turners Travel with whom the IWSG meeting is