

The increase in subscription is, of course, for the AGM to approve or reject. The next Bulletin (April) cannot, however, be produced and circulated without the income from the 1979 subscriptions because of the problems already outlined in this and the previous issues of the Bulletin. Accordingly, we have no choice but to send out with this issue a request and form for subscription renewals at the increased rate. We hope that members will be prepared to send their payments before any change is confirmed by the AGM. Should the AGM reject or amend the Officer's recommendations as to subscriptions, allowance will be made for any extra paid. Several members have already paid £1 for the 1979 subscription and we ask these to send the balance at some time.

We must stress that, unless at least some members are prepared to pay the proposed subscription before it can be confirmed, we shall not be able to produce the next issue. We are, however, pleased to confirm that after the receipt of 1979 subscriptions, the Group should once again be in a satisfactory financial state.

Payments

All cheques should be payable to "Wader Study Group" and not to any individual.

Currency of payments and subscriptions in advance

Except for members paying subscriptions in U.S. or Canadian dollars to the N. American Secretary/Treasurer, payments can only be accepted in British currency (sterling). Members outside Britain and Ireland must arrange for drafts to be sent in sterling and not in their own currency.

We recognise that, with a low subscription such as ours, the cost of obtaining a sterling draft may amount to almost as much as the subscription itself. At the suggestion of some of these members, therefore, we are making the following arrangement. The subscription for 1979, 1980 and 1981 may all be paid now at the 1979 rate of £2.50 per year (or £3.00 for airmail outside Europe) regardless of any later changes in subscription or postal rates between now and 1981. Members wishing to make use of this arrangement should send £7.50 (or £9.00) - in sterling only - with the enclosed renewal form. This offer does not apply in U.K., Ireland, Canada or U.S.A.

OFFICERS

As described by the Acting Chairman in Bull.23, there have been considerable changes amongst the Officers in the last year, due to departures, other commitments, reorganisation of the Group, etc. All Officers will be making themselves available for re-election or replacement at the AGM. If any alternative candidates wish to be considered by the meeting, nominations should be sent to the Secretary by 1 Jan. 1979. The current posts and the people who fill them are:-

Chairman Apart from presiding at meetings of the Group or its Officers, the Chairman is the senior officer responsible for the running of the Group and for relations with other organisations. The post had been occupied by Dr. Clive Minton until shortly before his move to Australia. Shortly before then, with the full approval of all the other Officers, he invited Harry Green to take over in an acting capacity until ratification (or otherwise) was possible by an AGM.

Secretary Tony Prater was re-elected to this post by the last AGM. Since then, many aspects of the previous very heavy load on the Secretary have been devolved onto other Officers.

Administrative Secretary now carries the burden of dealing with general correspondence, circulation of the Bulletin, membership applications, subscription renewals, changes of address, the keeping of minutes of meetings, storing completed WSG data forms, etc. This is a new post which the other Officers persuaded Graham Appleton to take up.

Treasurer is responsible for financial matters, budgeting and the keeping of accounts. Bryan Murray was newly-elected to this post by the last AGM.

Co-ordinator of the Advisory Panel The Advisory Panel on Group policy was established at the last AGM (see below) and the Officers were authorised by that meeting to appoint a Co-ordinator. William Dick accepted this role.

Editors are responsible for the soliciting of articles for the Bulletin, editing and producing the Bulletin. Mike Pienkowski and Tony Prater were re-elected by the last AGM. Since then other commitments have caused Tony Prater to discontinue his editorship and Harry Green was invited to join Mike Pienkowski as the editorial team.