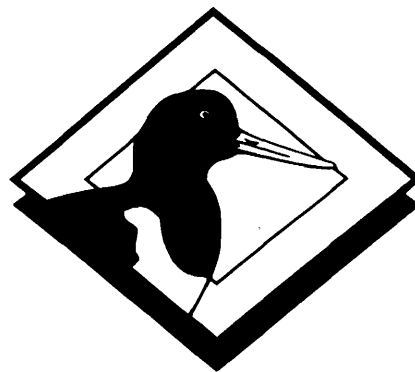


---

# MINUTES OF THE WSG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, COMMACCHIO, ITALY 6 OCTOBER 1990



## APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from S.J. Sutcliffe, P.L. Ireland and M.E. Moser.

## WELCOME

The Chairman, Dr M.W. Pienkowski, welcomed the participants and especially the strong representation from eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. He thanked the Istituto Nazionale Biologia della Selvaggina for their hospitality.

## MINUTES

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 23 September 1989 in Ribe, Denmark (published in WSG Bulletin 57:1) were accepted as a correct record.

## OFFICER'S REPORTS

The officers highlighted the main features from their written reports for 1989 and took the opportunity to note also some more recent developments.

### Chairman's report

The Chairman reported the challenges which the Group had faced in 1989 and 1990. The Group's success has produced increased work and brought a continued strain on officers. The Executive Committee had concentrated on this matter during the period and was addressing this by dividing the

duties in loads more practicable for voluntary posts. On behalf of the Group, the Chairman thanked Jeff Kirby for his efforts in finding a volunteer to be co-opted to take over his own duties as Membership Secretary when he could no longer fulfil them. Editing had remained a problem and the Group was very grateful to Nick Davidson for continuing in his role well after he wished to retire from it. A start to a solution to this had now been identified and details would be published in the Bulletin. At the time of the AGM, Bulletin 58 was in press, and it was hoped to produce Bulletins 59 and 60 shortly. Next year the Bulletin was planned to return again to its regular schedule as noted in the Editor's report. Since the call for nominations for election of officers, Phil Ireland had indicated that he would need to retire as soon as a replacement could be identified. Petra de Goeij had agreed to help in this role, and the Executive Committee would co-opt her until the Group had the opportunity to consider the post at the next Annual General Meeting.

### Membership Secretary's report

Rodney West reported a slight decline in members in 1989 and expects a slight increase in 1990. These were largely technical changes relating to the timing of subscription payments.

### Treasurer's report

In the absence of the Treasurer, S.J. Sutcliffe, The Chairman outlined his report. There were no questions.

### Editor's report

The Editor, Dr N.C. Davidson, reported that 1989 had been a year of continuing difficulties in returning Bulletin production to its schedule. 1989 had been a year of increasing and widespread contributions to the Bulletin, and it was pleasing to note the upsurge in material from eastern Europe, the USSR and from the New World. It had been recognised for some time that editing the Bulletin had become too great a load for one person.

The Executive Committee now had agreed to divide up the editorial tasks between an editorial team. The first step was to split the tasks into 'Newsletter' editing and 'scientific paper' editing. Rodney West had agreed to take on newsletter editing and the final layout and production of Bulletins.

The scientific editing would be undertaken by a small team. The editor explained the intention to expand the editorial team with the addition of regional editors and invited volunteers for these roles.

The Editor reported that the Group had taken the opportunity of the editorial changes to also improve the Bulletin design and layout, and displayed the



new Oystercatcher logo designed for the Group by Rodney West.

In addition to the three Bulletins, the Editor reported that two special supplements will appear in 1991.

The Editor thanked all those who had assisted in the editing and producing the Bulletin in his eight-year editorial term.

The Chairman thanked Nick Davidson for all his work over many years as editor of the Bulletin and for his willingness to take an advisory role in the future editing team. The meeting supported these thanks with acclamation.

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

Hermann Hötter reported that there is now a need for Regional Co-ordinators, a link with the people working in different parts of the world. These and the regional editing team will be of great importance. These matters would be developed in future Bulletins. With regard to meetings, the next WSG conference will be on Texel in 1991 in early October. In 1992 a Workshop on Feeding Ecology will take place in Hungary. This Workshop will be combined with the 1992 WSG meeting.



Hermann Hötter outlined the invitation from the Soviet Union to hold a meeting at Odessa in April 1992, dependent on sufficient interest which would have to be confirmed almost a year in advance. The meeting welcomed this and indicated a high proportion likely to attend. The costs for a five day meeting with excursions will probably be about £150 plus travel.

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

The Chairman explained that J.S. Kirby had withdrawn his nomination due to pressure of other commitments. Members of the Executive Committee had nominated D.A. Stroud as Editor and P.E. Jönsson (whose name had been omitted in error from the published list) as Committee Member. No other nominations had been received and the meeting elected the following:

**Chairman :** *M.W. Pięnkowski*

**Vice-Chairman:** *Th. Piersma*

**Editor:** *D.A. Stroud*

**Membership Secretary:** *R. B. West*

#### **Executive Committee Members**

*N. Baccetti*      *M. Barter*  
*N.C. Davidson*   *J. Gromadzka*  
*P.E. Jonsson*     *B. Kliner*

The Chairman thanked the retiring committee members Denis Bredin, Mike Moser and Pete Myers for their contributions over the years and linked these also to thanks to Jeff Kirby and his wife Kim for their major contribution to the Group. The meeting warmly supported these thanks.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Co-ordinator and Chairman noted that major improvements had been made in the forwarding of sightings and the Committee had just considered what further steps were needed. These included a system of acknowledgement of sightings and monitoring of responses as well as dealing with proposals for new schemes. Jeff Kirby had kindly agreed to the Committee's request to investigate and advise on procedures.

