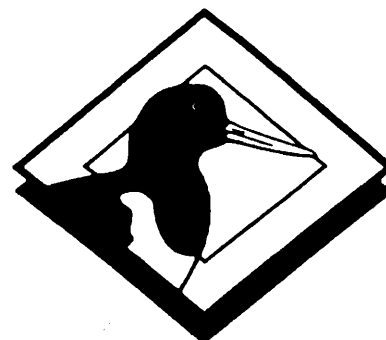


WADER STUDY GROUP



BULLETIN 75 December 1994

MINUTES OF THE 1994 WSG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1994 WSG Annual General Meeting was held at 09.00 hrs on Saturday 22 October 1994 before the annual meeting in Büsum, Germany.

AGENDA

In introducing the meeting the Chairman noted with great regret the recent death of Olavi Hildén, an active wader worker known and respected widely amongst members of the Wader Study Group.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nick Davidson, Pablo Canavari and Mark Barter.

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The minute of the 1993 AGM held on 30 October 1993 at Ipswich, Suffolk, UK and published in *Bulletin* 71: 1-3, were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

Gerard Boere presented his report of the year and noted the increasing development of international co-

operation at flyway level, particularly in the final negotiations associated with the African/Eurasian Waterbird Agreement of the Bonn Convention. These conservation developments highlighted research and information needs that WSG was well-placed to provide or co-ordinate.

The Chairman also formally thanked the Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij (The Netherlands), the Stifterverband für Deutsche Wissenschaft, the Bundesminister für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (Germany), the Office of the National Park Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer, WWF-Wattenmeerstelle Schleswig-Holstein and the Forschungs- und Technologie-Zentrum (FTZ) for their generous support of the 1994 meeting in many ways.

The report was accepted.

4. Treasurer's Report

Bob Loos presented a summary of the accounts for both 1993 and an interim financial report for 1994. The accounts for 1993 showed a small surplus whereas 1994 may finally show a small deficit. Overall, the WSG is financially healthy, although an increase in the membership subscription may be necessary in 1996 if expenditure continues to rise.

The report was accepted.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

Rodney West reported a further small increase in the membership. The total (of all types of members) was 622 at 31 December 1993. In an attempt to alleviate problems caused by the length of time that members take to renew their subscriptions (should be January but usually extends to July or August), it was proposed that in future, membership renewal forms will go out separately in November, rather than with the December *Bulletin*.

The report was accepted.

6. Editor's Report

David Stroud reported that there a steady flow of material for the *Bulletin* has continued. During the year several members have given assistance in reviewing papers, and this has helped to speed up the time to publication.

The editor summarised progress with a number of *Bulletin* supplements listed in his written report in *Bulletin* 73.

The printing of the three *Bulletins* during the year was substantially on time, and many members actually received the August *Bulletin* in August

(thought possibly to be a first occurrence!). However, he apologised for major delays in the distribution of the *Bulletin* 72 (April 1994) which had occurred after printing. In large part these seem to have been the fault of the British Post Office. This had caused substantial problems due to the delay in distribution of conference details and booking forms. A number of possible solutions are being investigated to ensure that such delays do not occur again.

The report was accepted.

7. Co-ordinator's Report

Herman Hötter noted that the WSG Kentish Plover Project will be formally finished next year with a specially workshop to be held at the Portugal meeting. Likewise the WSG Inland Wader Counts Project is soon to formally conclude, and all data collected subjected to full analysis and publication. He noted that Ole Thorup has taken responsibility on the Committee for the projected WSG Project on breeding waders in Europe. Members would be given full details of this new project via the *Bulletin*.

8. WSG-IWRB Liaison Officer's Report

Owing to Nick Davidson's absence from the AGM owing to illness, his written report was tabled. It was noted that the WSG-IWRB link is operating well and that there will be regular news of the link in the *Bulletin*.

The report was accepted.

9. Elections to the Executive Committee

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

- Herman Hötter - Co-ordinator; and
- Petra de Goeij - General Secretary.

Pablo Canavari was elected for a further term on the Executive Committee.

10. Subscription rates for 1995

There will be no increase of subscription rates in 1995, although as noted in the Treasurer's report, there may need to be an increase for 1996.

In closing the Annual General Meeting the Chairman highlighted the fact that in 1995 the Wader Study Group will celebrate its 25th anniversary. All members are invited to attend the Portugal meeting to celebrate this event in style.

1994 WSG ANNUAL CONFERENCE: BÜSUM, GERMANY

The highly successful 1994 conference was held in the German holiday resort of Büsum on the Schleswig-Holstein coast of the international Wadden Sea. At least according to the attendance list, the meeting was attended by 159 participants from 16 countries, although the attendance over the duration of the meeting seemed highly dynamic! Whilst not all the 159 were WSG members when they arrived at Büsum, most were on their departure thanks to the predatory stalking of non-members by Rodney West and Bob Loos!

A full report of the meeting will be given in the *April Bulletin*, as will the abstracts from talks and posters (and a critical review of 'the Ens Hypothesis' (*Bulletin* 57: 29-33) based on monitoring of participant sex-ratios from five years of WSG meetings).

Thanks are especially due to the following organisations for their most generous financial support: Ministerie van Landbouw een Visserij (The Netherlands), the Stifterverband für Deutsche Wissenschaft, the Bundesminister für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (Germany) and the Office of the National Park Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer.

Logistic support was provided by the WWF-Wattenmeerstelle Schleswig-Holstein and the Forschungs- und Technologie-Zentrum (FTZ).

Herman Hötter's major task of ensuring the smooth and efficient organisation of the meeting was aided by a large and enthusiastic team: Herr Bolz and his helpers at the Youth Hostel, Frau Schmidt at the Conference Hall, Lorenz Greve, Brigitte Kliner-Hötter, Vera Knoke, Gregor Kölsch, Sabine Marxen (who handled bookings and abstracts), Annika Petersen, Hans-Ulrich Rösner (who especially co-ordinated arrangements for the excursion), Rainer Schulz, Anne Segebade, Barbara Strauß and Ole Thorup.

Help with sorting out the complex travel arrangements was given by Gerard Boere, Gerhard Nikolaus and Pavel Tomkovich.

To all of the above, the Group would like to express their thanks for making the 1994 meeting not only possible, but also as stimulating and interesting as ever.