

Minutes of the 2002 International WSG Annual General Meeting

The 2002 WSG Annual General Meeting was held at 09.15 hrs on Saturday 5 October during the annual conference at Jurata, on the Hel Peninsula, Poland, and commenced with a minute's silence in memory of Professor Peter R. Evans (University of Durham).

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Gerard Boere, Nick Davidson, Elena Lebedeva, Mike Pienkowski and Rodney West.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 1 September 2001 at Kollumerpomp, The Netherlands, and published in *Bulletin* 96: 12–13 were accepted as a true record of that meeting. The Chairman offered apologies on behalf of WSG for the delayed delivery of the August *Bulletin*, and asked members to notify Les Underhill of the date received.

3. Chairman's report (Hermann Hötker)

The Chairman extended his thanks to the WSG Executive Committee (ExCo) and its officers, in particular mentioning the high quality of the *Bulletin* and IWS series, success of conferences, the importance of the WSG projects, healthy state of finances, the role of WSG as a specialist group to Wetlands International, and the website maintained by the Avian Demography Unit of the University of Cape Town.

An interim meeting of the ExCo had taken place in Bergenhusen, Germany in April 2002.

4a. Treasurer's report (Bob Loos)

The WSG finances are in a healthy state. A query was raised concerning the value of back issues of the *Bulletin* and why this did not appear in the accounts. The back issues are seen as having financial value only when sold, and these transactions do appear in the accounts, as an extra source of revenue.

4b. Auditor's report

The audit committee, Martin de Jong and Tom van der Have (Tom van der Have having replaced Peter Evans), had received and checked the Treasurer's report for 2001 with accounts of receipts and expenditure, balance sheet and the budget for 2003. The audit committee was happy with the healthy financial situation of the International Wader Study Group and content with the accounts as presented. The meeting voted to retain the external auditors as Martin de Jong and Tom van der Have.

5. Membership Officer's report (Rodney West)

Apologies were given by the Chairman for the absence of a report for 2001 from the Membership Officer; this would be published in a future *Bulletin*.

6. Editor's report (Humphrey Sitters)

The Editor reminded the membership that the April 2003 *Bulletin* would be issue 100, and it was planned to be a "big issue on the big issues in wader research and conservation" (see August *Bulletin*). An invitation was extended for articles; already about 50 promises received.

7. Project Co-ordinator's report (Ole Thorup)

In 2001, there were two active projects:

Breeding Waders in Europe 2000. Data for current totals of breeding waders have been received from most European countries. A draft report has been prepared by Ole Thorup and is due to be completed by the end of 2002, for circulation as a volume of *International Wader Studies* in early 2003.

***Tringa glareola* 2000.** Magdalena Remisiewicz presented an update. 2002 was the sixth year of this project. A total of 37 sites took part including 11 ringing stations and 20 count sites. A programme of colour-ringing and resightings has been very successful. Papers have been produced from the December 2001 workshop. The final meeting was the workshop on Monday 7 October at the 2002 Annual Conference in Jurata. In 2003 & 2004, all the information on counts, ringing, biometrics, migration flyways and energetics will be incorporated into a single database. The project will culminate in an IWS volume.



Welcome to Hel(l).



8. Conference Co-ordinator's report and future conferences (Petra de Goeij)

Preparations for the 2002 WSG meeting in Poland had progressed very smoothly owing to the good organisation by the Waterbird Research Group, Kuling.

The 2003 meeting will be held in Cadiz, in southern Spain, and that for 2004 in Germany.

9. WSG-Wetlands International Liaison Officer's Report (David Stroud)

Work on large projects has continued with the major review of population estimates for Africa and Western Eurasia, started at workshops in 1995 and 1998. The resulting report was open to international consultation earlier in 2002 and will be published on the WSG website initially, pending availability of funds to produce a paper version. The information also has been incorporated in Global Population Estimates III, to be formally signed off at the November 2002 meeting of the contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention.

The Flyway Atlas has contributed to the population estimates work. There is a promising potential source of funds to enable this project to be completed. It is hoped that the Atlas may be launched in April 2004 at the conference on *Waterbirds Around the World* (see August *Bulletin*).

IWS 12, *Shorebirds of the Yellow Sea* has just been published and is being circulated by WI Oceania. Forthcoming volumes include one on Avocets, comprising papers from the workshop in Bretagne in September 1999, and nearing completion, and a volume on migration of Curlew Sandpipers.

Wetlands International has adopted a new organisational strategy which focuses on waterbird monitoring and wetland inventory.

10. Subscription rates for 2002

No rise in sterling subscriptions is necessary for 2003, although changes in exchange rates may modify subscriptions in other currencies.

There will not be a renewal form to complete in 2003.

Instead, invoices will be issued.

A two-tier membership is to be introduced, to encourage new members in poorer countries who will be entitled to a 50% reduction in subscription rates. An explanatory note will appear in the *Bulletin*.

11. WSG Annual Meeting 2003 (Gonzalo Munoz Arroyo & Petra de Goeij)

As stated above, the **2003 WSG Annual Meeting will be held in Cadiz, in southern Spain, over the weekend of 4 & 5 October 2002, with a workshop on declining waders planned for Friday 3 October**. The venue is close to the narrowest sea crossing of the Straits of Gibraltar, an important migration corridor.

The workshop will include papers providing empirical evidence for declines, together with key summary presentations on the different flyways.

12. Election of Officers

Thanks were extended to **Nicola Baccetti**, stepping down from ExCo after this meeting, for his important contribution to ExCo and past conference organisation.

Newly elected:

Vice President, **Nick Davidson**

Re-elected:

Vice President, **Theunis Piersma**
Membership Officer, **Rodney West**
Project Co-ordinator, **Ole Thorup**
WI Liaison Officer, **David Stroud**

13. Any other business

There being no other items of business, the meeting closed at 09.53 hrs.

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Wader Study Group Annual Conference 2003 Welcome to Cadiz!

The annual conference of the WSG will be held during 3–5 October 2003 at Cadiz, Andalucia, southern Spain, organised by the Group of Study of Marine and Coastal Birds (GEAM), University of Cadiz. The conference will start with a workshop on Friday 3 October on "Are waders world-wide in decline? Reviewing the evidence". The Annual General Meeting and talks will take place on Saturday and Sunday 4–5 October. For further information, please contact Gonzalo M. Arroyo, Group of Study of Marine and Coastal Birds, University of Cadiz, Faculty of Marine and Environmental Sciences, PO Box 40, 11510 Puerto Real, Cadiz, Spain; e-mail: gonzalo.munoz@uca.es.

