

## Notice of the 2005 Annual General Meeting of the International Wader Study Group

The Annual General Meeting of the International Wader Study Group will be held at 09.00 hrs on Saturday 8 October 2005 during the Annual Conference at Knockadoon Head, County Cork, Ireland. Nominations for the election of Officers and other members of the Executive Committee may be made in writing to the General Secretary not less than 14 days before the AGM. Each nomination must be proposed and seconded by fully paid up members and accompanied by the nominee's written consent.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2004 AGM
3. Chairman's report (Hermann Hötker)
4. a) Treasurer's report (Bob Loos)  
b) Auditor's report (Martin de Jong & Tom van der Have)
5. Membership Officer's report (Rodney West)
6. Editor's report (Humphrey Sitters)
7. Project Coordinator's report (Ole Thorup)
8. Conference Coordinator's report and future conferences (Petra de Goeij)
9. IWSG-Wetlands International Liaison Officer's report (David Stroud)
10. Formation of the IWSG support foundation
11. Election of Officers and other members of the Executive Committee
12. IWSG Annual Meeting 2006
13. Any other business

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## Officers' reports for 2004

### Chairman's report (Hermann Hötker)

The past year has been an extremely successful one for the International Wader Study Group, as may be seen from the publications and the conference in Papenburg. This conference was particularly remarkable as it incorporated a record number of workshops for an IWSG conference. These ranged from the conservation problems of saltmarshes, to monitoring arctic breeding waders and estimating turnover. The group continues to be the focal point for all sorts of activities related to waders and their protection.

All this is only possible because the IWSG is run by a group of volunteers who spend considerable amounts of their free time working for the organisation. I would like to thank all members of the EXCO for their high personal involvement in the Group. Thanks to e-mail the communication within the committee has been working well. This was greatly helped by an interim meeting of a part of the team by kind invitation of Petra and Theunis at the home in Gaast (Friesland, The Netherlands) during 15–17 April 2005. Ongoing processing of Ruffs caught for ringing and a colour

ring reading competition could not prevent the EXCO from working on the administration of the Group!

One of the permanent worries of the EXCO is membership. We need more members to ensure that the services the IWSG offers are maintained. Membership subscriptions are by far the largest and most stable income of the Group and they are needed especially for the publications. We have the impression that, even now, not all people who are interested in waders, and even profit from the services of the IWSG, are members. We ask everybody to whom this applies to become a member and our existing members to encourage their wader contacts and colleagues to join the Group.

Another way of improving the Group's income is currently under investigation. The plan is to set up an IWSG foundation that would raise money to help fund the Group's activities. Provided there is enough money in the foundation, interest might be used to contribute, for example, to the cost of the Group's publications or research projects. We hope to be able to report further about the foundation proposal at the AGM in Cork. In the meantime I would like to say that the Group is always grateful for all donations; the Group may



even be considered as a beneficiary in one's last will.

Always, we need volunteers to help with the running of the Group. Most members of EXCO are very overworked trying to combine their daily jobs with their volunteer work for the Group. Anybody willing to help out will be very welcome. Help needed ranges from editing and soliciting material for the *Bulletin* and other documents to finding new members.

### Treasurer's report (Bob Loos)

#### *Receipts and Expenditure account*

Following two years of deficit, 2004 ended with a surplus of £847.00, due largely to an increase in the number of subscriptions. We have found that a more proactive approach from the Membership Secretary and Treasurer towards members who have forgotten to pay after receiving the renewal form helps us to maintain the membership – our main source of income – at a satisfactory level. The other reason for the growth of income is the increase in the membership subscription, the first in twelve years.

The publication of *Estuarine Waterbirds at Low Tide* went smoothly, at the present time we still await the final rounding off of this account. Therefore a large part of the prepayment from JNCC to cover the production is still on our account (see also our Balance sheet) and earning interest. We will lose this unforeseen source of interest during the forthcoming year.

The sale of back issues of the *WSG Bulletin* and *IWS* series remains a welcome extra source of income. We expect to increase this by selling Volume 100 of the *WSG Bulletin* and this may also be helpful in convincing wader enthusiasts to join the International Wader Study Group!

If you need any of these publications, just contact the Treasurer; he will be very pleased to help you!

During the 2004 financial year the British Pound showed a very slight decrease against the Euro. This meant that the part of our savings held in Euros produced a higher British Pound value, and therefore an exchange profit. Unfortunately we cannot always 'play the market' successfully as it is completely impossible to predict how the currency exchange rates will move in future!

Again, the aggregate number of pages published in the *Bulletin* during the 2004 financial year was more than had been budgeted (264 pages against 192) but this is not a cause for concern; on the contrary, we are happy to see that the output of our members and potential members is still increasing. We would be even happier if the membership increased proportionally, as this would improve our financial position.

It cannot be emphasised enough that all the work carried out by the officers of the Group is done on an entirely voluntary basis and it is very time consuming; for example, for the Editor; editing means no birding at the same time!

#### *Balance sheet*

As a result of the profit our capital increased slightly, but it is still below the required minimum of one year's running costs.

We encourage our members to take out a Lifetime Membership; with one payment you have paid all your financial dues to the International Wader Study Group for the rest of

your whole life! It enables the Group to create extra interest whilst on deposit which in turn enables us to hold the membership fee down for a longer period. At the same time applying for Lifetime Membership suggests that the member is happy with the way the Group is operating, so there is moral support there as well as financial!

The stock of back *WSG Bulletins* and *IWS* issues is hard to quantify in monetary terms because they are of no value unless they are sold; therefore it is recorded as "p.m." which means "pro memori". This is unquestionably of value, but to the Group it is just paper that has to be stored. It can only be turned into money by selling it; so it is selling the stock makes money, not the possession of it. That is why no specific value is given for it in the accounts.

### Conference Coordinator's report (Petra de Goeij)

I am happy to say that writing anything new in this report is getting more and more difficult every year, since I can only announce that the *IWSG* conferences continue to be very successful and are run very smoothly. The effort that the organisers put in is immense, but it is extremely worthwhile. The 2004 conference in Papenburg, Germany, was fantastic. The mixture of excellent talks, very interesting workshops, and a most pleasant social venue made it into a first rate meeting. Thanks to our German friends who made it such a success!

In October 2005, Ireland will host the *IWSG* Annual Conference. We are most grateful to our Irish colleagues for offering to take on this substantial task and hope that they will enjoy the experience. We are very fortunate that already we also have offers to host the conference in both 2006 and 2007. In 2006, we will be going to southern Sweden where Åke Lindström and his team will organise the meeting in October. In 2007, Pierrick Bocher and his team have invited us to come to France. Lucky us!

### Editor's report (Humphrey Sitters)

In 2004, the *Wader Study Group Bulletin* comprised a very healthy 280 pages and included no less than 41 papers reflecting the enthusiastic support it enjoys from *IWSG* members everywhere. Indeed one of the most exciting aspects of the way in which the *Bulletin* has developed in recent years is its worldwide appeal. Despite its European origins, only 36% (15) of the papers published in 2004 came from that continent. 27% (11) came from North America, with four papers each from South/Central America, Africa, Australasia and three papers from Asia. The "International" Wader Study Group is living up to its name!

During 2004, Robin Ward stepped down from the job of compiling the *Notes & News* section of the *Bulletin*, a task he had carried out with great care and expertise for no less than 15 years. This must be something of a record for sustained effort on behalf of the Group and we are all most grateful to Robin for his dedication.

The compilation, editing and production of the *Bulletin* is very much a team effort and I would like to express the Group's thanks to everyone involved in 2004 for their efforts: Marja Wren-Sargent who does the typesetting, Henk Koffijberg who compiles *Recent Publications*, Silke Nebel who has taken over compiling *Notes & News* and Tamás Székely who coordinates *Research News & Comment*.



# Accounts of the International Wader Study Group for the year 1st January to 31st December 2004

(All figures are in British Pounds)

## RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Receipts	2003	2004	Budget 2004
Subscriptions	7,614.76	9,403.58	9,800.00
Subscriptions from past year	509.56	1,208.81	
Donations	7.99	0.00	
Interest received	800.20	810.72	450.00
Colour Marking Register	20.00	0.00	300.00
Sale back Bulletins and publications	248.44	498.76	200.00
Miscellaneous	19.02	80.76	
Exchange profit	537.58	179.87	
Wader Atlas	0.00	0.00	
Liberated reserves	2,384.00	0.00	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>12,141.55</b>	<b>12,182.50</b>	<b>10,750.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Bulletin costs – printing	4,986.27	5,141.48	3,500.00
– dispatch	3,437.52	2,772.96	2,750.00
Editorial and DTP	2,723.16	1,831.01	2,250.00
Secretarial costs and miscellaneous	1,709.27	985.83	1,700.00
Colour Marking Register	100.00	167.00	300.00
Bank charges	203.72	287.23	250.00
Depreciation on computers etc.	0.00	0.00	
Exchange loss	0.00	0.00	
Investments	0.00	0.00	
International Wader Studies	3,312.44	0.00	
Reservation Breeding Waders	150.00	150.00	
Miscellaneous	17.61	0.00	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>16,639.99</b>	<b>11,335.51</b>	<b>10,750.00</b>
<i>Excess of income over expenditure</i>	<b>4,498.44 Deficit</b>	<b>846.99</b>	

## BALANCE SHEET

	31.12.2003	31.12.2004		31.12.2003	31.12.2004
Computers & printers	0	0	Capital	8,507	9,354
Stock back Bulletins & IWS	p.m.	p.m.	Subscriptions in advance	704	2,382
Cash at Bank and on deposit	41,056	36,880	Life Time Membership Deposit	0	221
Debtors	0	0	Conference Fund	1,007	923
			Breeding Waders in Europe	3,304	2,214
			Hebrides Project	92	92
			Creditors	10,973	6,690
			Low Tide Atlas	16,469	15,004
	<b>41,056</b>	<b>36,880</b>			

## BUDGET 2006

Subscriptions	10,000	Bulletin costs: printing	4,700
Interest received	450	DTP	1,300
Colour Marking Register	0	postage	2,750
Sale back Bulletins and IWS	200	Secretarial costs & misc.	1,000
		Colour Marking Register	0
		Bank charges	250
		Reserve Fund Intern.Wader Studies	500
		Excess of income over expenditure	150
	<b>10,650</b>		<b>10,650</b>

