



## **10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Broadcast Meteorology**

**Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the International Association of  
Broadcast Meteorology will be held on Thursday 3rd June 2004 at the Conference  
Centre of Forum 2004 Barcelona at 1800.**

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Apologies for absence, and notification of postal votes.**

There were no prior apologies. The following members were in attendance:  
Allan Humphries, Abraham Mwale, Joel Chabata, John Kermon, Yoshikaza Idesako,  
Frank Tench, Arne Spekat, Bob Goldhammer, Johan Groth, Nesu Vilela, Gemma Puig,  
Francis Wilson, Evelyn Cusak, Ian Miller, Claire Martin, Tammy Garrison, Jan Pavlik,  
Steve Swienckowski, Dieter Walch, Ube Ulbrich, Jofre Janue, John Teather, Bill Giles,  
Gerald Fleming, Tomas Molina.

#### **2. Minutes of the 9th Annual General meeting, held in Norwich on Tuesday 2nd September 2003** The Meeting received the minutes and their acceptance was proposed by John Kermond and seconded by Frank Tench.

#### **3. Any matters arising.**

#### **4. Report of the outgoing Chairman, Gerald Fleming.**

It is always a pleasure to address you at the time of the AGM, but a particular pleasure this year as we are gathered here in this magnificent conference building, having this morning launched the First World Conference on Broadcast Meteorology; an initiative we have planned for and worked towards over a number of years.

The plans to hold a Conference such as this sprang from our experiences in WMO in the year 2000 when we helped to bring together a one-day series of talks as part of the WMO50 celebrations, marking the golden jubilee of that august organisation. On that occasion we were aware that time was a limiting factor, and that the concept of gathering together a number of world experts to engage in dialogue with weather broadcasters was worthy of development.

We have had a number of false starts on the road to this conference; at one stage we planned to hold the Conference in Geneva in conjunction with both WMO and the AMS. The difficulty was always in trying to get the numbers to add up so that the conference could be financially achievable. That we are having it here in Barcelona is due primarily to the exceedingly generous financial support that we have obtained from the Forum organisation, in addition to the use of this impressive conference facility.

The past year, then, has been a very busy one for your committee as we have had much work to do to pull this conference together. There has been a series of organising meetings; initially just between ourselves but latterly with the staff of the Forum who have been

incredibly helpful and hardworking – I cannot praise them enough. Much of the work was done through email, of course, but the experience reinforced for me just how important face-to-face contact still is in the context of organising any such venture.

Aside from the conference we also were in attendance at the Congress of WMO last summer. This event lasts for about 3 weeks and puts a considerable strain on our resources – both financial resources and time resources – in organising to have our seat filled. Having been granted a seat, however, it would be unthinkable not to fill it on such occasions, and for the last Congress we managed to cover most of the three-week period. Our connections with WMO have developed and matured over the years and we are now one of the first to be consulted when matters concerning weather broadcasting come up on their agenda. Individually, members of the IABM have become involved in WMO Expert Teams and in the organisation of training courses – such as the one held here earlier this week – so both organisations have, I feel, benefited from the collaboration.

There is also the day-to-day running of the Association; keeping the website up-to-date and issuing regular newsletters to maintain contact with our members. I would like to remind you that we welcome contributions to both website and newsletter from all the members; communication should be a two-way process and we are more than happy to facilitate you in circulating your thoughts and opinions to your peers.

This AGM marks my final act as Chairman; I have been privileged to serve a full three-year term. While being Chairman entails a degree of work and effort, the support of my colleagues on the committee has been essential, and very much appreciated. We have had a lot of fun together over the years, mixing our work with good meals and even better bottles of wine. I would like to thank them all, especially John, Bill, Inge and Tomas who formed the core group who worked together on this Conference. We have seen a lot of each other over the past year, and there has been not a cross word spoken; a testament, I feel, to the sense of respect which we have for each other.

In conclusion I would like to wish you an enjoyable and informative Conference; to wish Tomas well as he takes over the Chair, and to thank all of you for participating in the life of the Association.

#### **5. Report of the outgoing Honorary Secretary, John Teather.**

The Secretary supported the report from the Chairman, and further to this reminded members of the great help and support afforded by WMO.

#### **6. Report of the outgoing Treasurer, Gerald Fleming.**

#### **Income / Expenditure for 2003 (In Euro)**

<b>Carried Forward from 2002</b>		<b>2,414</b>	
<b>Income</b>			
Interest earned	1		
Subscriptions	6,183		
Forum 2004	25,000	<b>31,184</b>	33,598
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<i>Printing – Up Front</i>	<i>2,277</i>	<b><i>2,277</i></b>	
<i>Mailing and Stationary</i>	<i>722</i>	<b><i>722</i></b>	

<i>Website</i>				
<i>Registration Fees / Maintenance</i>	442			
<i>Editorial (14 months)</i>	5,170	<b>5,612</b>		
<i>Meetings and Conferences</i>				
<i>Geneva – WMO Congress</i>	3,659			
<i>Geneva – December Meeting</i>	1,320	<b>4,979</b>		
<i>Accountancy, Companies Office</i>	514	<b>514</b>		
<i>Credit card commission</i>	86			
<i>Bank charges</i>	46	<b>132</b>		
<i>First World Conference</i>				
<i>TVC Netmedia / Tech Secr.</i>	15,001			
<i>Organising Committee Meetings</i>	2,711	<b>17,712</b>	<b>31,948</b>	<b>31,948</b>
<b>Excess of expenditure over income</b>			<b>764</b>	
<b>In account, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004</b>				<b>1,650</b>

Made up as follows:

Current Account (€1,052)	1,052
Deposit Account (US\$216)	186
UK Account (£276)	412

*N.B. Compiled using the following exchange rates:*

€1.00 = US\$1.1617 = £0.67

#### **Notes to the accounts:**

1. The accounts are shown in Euro with the appropriate conversion rates to US Dollars and Pounds Sterling.
2. The IABM holds two bank accounts in the Republic of Ireland; one denominated in Euro and the other in US Dollars. During the year it opened a further account in Pounds Sterling in the UK. This was to facilitate the collection of fees through the PayPal system.
3. Subscription income was very similar to the previous year, given that about €1,000 of the subscription shown for 2002 was in fact arrears from 2001.
4. Mr John Teather is paid a monthly honorarium of £250 for editing the website and Up Front.
5. The expenditure reflects a busy year for the IABM; we published three editions of the IABM News (one less than our target) and also continued to develop the website significantly.
6. Attendance at the WMO Congress (which comes around once every four years) was a significant cost for the year.
7. Accountancy figures relate to the preparation of accounts and filing of company returns for 2002. There were also returns made to the Companies Office during the year to maintain our status as a properly constituted Limited Company.
8. Obviously the greatest amounts of money are those that relate to the First World Conference on Broadcast Meteorology. We were paid €25,000 by the Forum 2004 organisation during the year in respect of our work on this event; of this €15,000 was paid over to TVC Netmedia in Barcelona to cover the cost of a local Secretariat. Some funds were spent on attendance at organising committee meetings; the remainder went to cover the normal operating expenses of the Association.
9. These Forum funds help to disguise the fact that we are taking in about €6,000 in subscription income but spending in excess of €14,000 on our day-to-day activities.

Obviously we need to increase our membership significantly; most of our costs are fixed costs and they will not rise significantly with increased membership.

After the presentation of the Treasurers report the Chairman drew the attention of the membership to the fact that we had been joined by Dr John Zillman, recent past-president of WMO. The Chairman welcomed Dr Zillman, and stated that it was largely through his work and vision that the IABM had been admitted to observer status with WMO. This admission had, in turn, opened many doors for us and it is fair to say that without Dr Zillman and his encouragement the IABM would not have achieved half as much over the past ten years. The Chairman wished to take the opportunity to publicly thank Dr Zillman for all that he had done.

#### **7. Election of Directors and Officers.**

Chairman	Tomas Molina
Secretary	Bill Giles
Treasurer	Gerald Fleming
Vice-Chairmen	Claire Martin
Membership Secretary	
Publications Secretary	John Teather
Ordinary Directors	Inge Niedek, Dieter Walch, Gemma Puig, Tammy Garrison

Reviewing the election of committee members and officers, the Chairman noted that the outgoing committee essentially comprised the same group of people who had set up the IABM. We recognized that it was time now for change; for some of the “old hands” to gradually retreat into the background and for new energies and imaginations to come through. It was not that those with long experience were going to abandon the Association, but that an orderly evolution to a new generation would be for the best. He remarked with satisfaction that the election just concluded had begun that process in bringing some new faces to the fore, and he looked forward to working with the new committee under the direction of our new Chairman, Mr Tomas Molina.

#### **8. Resolutions.**

There were no resolutions

#### **9. Any other business.**

There was no other business

The meeting closed at 1842.