



Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting of the Association held on Friday 22nd October 2010 at 1700, à l'Hôtel de Ville, Paris.

In attendance:

Claire Martin, Paul Gross, Gerald Fleming, Jay Trobec, Panos Giannopolis, Stephen Quao, Tomas Molina, Jarek Kret, Jesper Thulgard, Enric Agud Pique, Thomas Wostal, Tatana Mikova, Bill Giles, John Teather, Marek Horczuzak, John Morales.

1. Apologies for absence were received from:

Bob Goldhammer, Tomas Bucheli, Jay Prater, Yoshikazu Idesako, Maurico Salividor, Dan Corbett, Dan Satterfeild, Tom Burse, Jofre Miret, Evelyn Cusak, Bob Ryan.

2. Minutes of the 15th Annual General meeting

These were agreed as a true record proposed by Tomas Molina and seconded by Bill Giles

3. Any matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive a report from the Chairman, Claire Martin.

I can not believe that yet another year has gone since our last AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our "hosts" - the organizers of the International Weathercasters Forum 2010 - for being so gracious as to invite us and allow us to "sub-let" the facilities and suggest a free afternoon for us (the IABM executive) to get together.

As with last year, we have struggled to work and publish Up Front regularly on a shoe string budget, and we are still trying to arrange a chance for us all (including as many of our membership as is feasibly possible) to get together in a conference akin to our first world meeting.

This is literally our only "outstanding" issue.

Since last year, we have witnessed the Copenhagen COP15 debacle, seen Russia ablaze after a disastrously hot and dry summer, and watched thousands die as parts of northern India and Pakistan flooded after one of the most devastatingly strong monsoon seasons ever. Climate is as hot a media button as ever.

IABM members need to understand that our role as "simple weather disseminators" has forever morphed into a more political, more scientific and more contentious role of "weather and climate disseminators".

Aside from the aforementioned very real climate change issues, we also have to deal with over-zealous non-scientific journalists wanting to whet the general-public's overfed appetite for breathless

"breaking news" type weather stories. As I came to work last week - I was met with the following headline screaming at me from the newspaper stand:

Wicked winter expected as Vancouver, BC to see worst La Nina since 1955.

So now we also have to calm the fears that such headlines breed. Ours is no longer a simple job. It takes a certain person to be able to stand up to mocking knocks after a failed daily weather forecast, let alone being able to put into context the possible time-frame and ramifications of climate change.

That being said, in more and more countries, the job of "broadcast meteorologist" is becoming a highly qualified, much coveted career position. We, as a group, recognize this and commend you all for "staying the course" with us during this time.

Furthermore, not only is the actual content of our daily work load changing, but so is the way we do our work. Many of us now have blogs, use Twitter or even Facebook to deliver a message - ours is not a job for the technologically faint of heart!

It is also with a fair amount of pride that I would like to formally recognize and welcome our new "branch" of South American colleagues. Much like our African "umbrella group", Mauricio SALDIVAR among others, literally came to us as a pre-formed group and requested involvement. We welcome them along - and are thrilled to see that they are already hoping to be quite active in the coming years.

Finally, it has been brought to my attention (thanks Inge) that there may be another chance for us to join with another group as a means to meeting in 2011. Tanja Cegnar - an IABM member - is rather active with the EMS, and has asked Inge if we would consider holding our next AGM in conjunction with the EMS-Conference in Berlin in 2011 in September. I believe this may very well be another opportunity for us to get together with - hopefully - minimum expense for some of our European members.

So here's to 2011.

Acceptance of the report was proposed for adaption by Jay Trobec and seconded by Paul Gross.

5. To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary, John Teather.

This last year has seen a strange reversal of roles with a decline in the fortunes of Broadcast Meteorology in developed countries and a new assertiveness from emerging nations. In part this is due to the financial situation that has gripped the West. In the USA there has been a wave of takeovers and amalgamations in TV stations fighting for market share and often Broadcast Meteorology has suffered. Even the BBC Weather Centre has suffered a fundamental change in its fortunes with a reduction in funding and the consequent loss of trained meteorologists and forecast accuracy.

But in other parts of the world, the reverse is true, with very active work in Africa, Asia and now in South America. There is a new appetite in these areas to develop and improve the way in which weather is delivered to the public and broadcast meteorology is leading this process.

The IABM is proud that it has helped this process, but all of us are all too sorry that we have been unable to do more. Our lack of funding and the problems of getting the members of the committee together for meetings, continues to challenge us. The last meeting of the committee was at the last AGM last year. Despite many attempts there was no opportunity to meet during the year. Although

there is constant communication through email – it is face to face meetings that really produce results.

We have managed to produce three editions of UP FRONT in the last year. The feedback from members is that they are a valuable means of involving people in our cause. The plan will be to produce three editions in the 2010-11 season. The first will be published following this AGM.

But our real ambition has again not been realised – and that is to hold the 2nd World Conference on Broadcast Meteorology. We expended a good deal of effort on trying to get one in Shanghai – but to no avail. Gerald Fleming is to be thanked for his work on this.

I was also concerned that we were unable to be represented at the WMO Executive Council in June as there was nobody available to go. However we will make special attempts to attend the WMO Congress in June 2011.

The report was proposed for adoption by Claire Martin and seconded by Jay Trobec.

6. To receive a report from Treasurer, Gerald Fleming.

Gerald Fleming presented his report for 2009

International Association of Broadcast Meteorology Income / Expenditure for 2009 (In Euro)

Carried Forward from 2008 **€5,604**

Income

Interest earned	1		
Greenwave / Forfás Income	3,200		
Tax rebate	800		
Donations (CMOS)	621		
Subscriptions	4,018		
Total	8,640	€8,640	€14,244

Expenditure

<i>Audit and Accounts</i>	1,220		
<i>Companies Office – Fees</i>	20		
<i>Travel</i>	239		
<i>Printing</i>	1,212		
<i>Postage</i>	291		
<i>Bank Charges</i>	82		
<i>Web Hosting etc</i>	90		
Total	3,154	€3,154	€11,090

Excess of income over expenditure **€5,486**

Made up as follows:

Current Account (€9,503)	9,503
Deposit Account (US\$2,158)	1,553
UK Account (£13)	15

N.B. Compiled using the following exchange rates: €1.00 = US\$1.39 = £0.87

Notes to the accounts:

7. *The accounts are shown in Euro with the appropriate conversion rates to US Dollars and Pounds Sterling..*
8. *The IABM holds two bank accounts in the Republic of Ireland; one denominated in Euro and the other in US Dollars. It also has a further account in Pounds Sterling in the UK. This UK account was closed in early 2010*
9. *Not shown in these accounts are outstanding repayments of Directors Loans (loans made by Directors to the IABM). Monies owed are to Mr Tomas Molina (€2,000 approx) and Mr Gerald Fleming (€1,500 approx).*
10. *We have an aspiration to produce four editions of Up Front each year, as well as to represent the membership effectively at all the relevant international fora. In my view, we would need an annual income of circa €20,000 in order to discharge these responsibilities fully and effectively.*

Gerald further reported a problem with paying fees through the Feepay system. He was working on a solution.

His report was proposed for adoption by Paul Gross and seconded by Steve Quao.

7. Election of Directors and Officers.

Having received nominations for the people listed below, the meeting accepted these for election as one block vote proposed by John Morales and seconded by Enric Agud.

Chairman	Claire Martin
Vice Chairman	Tomas Molina
Secretary	John Teather
Treasurer	Gerald Fleming
Membership	Inge Neidek
Publications	Bill Giles
Ordinary Directors	Paul Gross Richard Chapman Panos Giannopoulos Dieter Walsh
African Representative	Steve Nyarkotey Quao
Asia Representative	Yoshikazu Idesako

8. Resolutions.

There were no resolutions.

9. Any other business.

Members raised several issues during a wide-ranging discussion. This included was of getting funding for a 2nd World Conference. There was a suggestion of South Africa as a venue and Steve Quao would be working with WMO to further the ideas.

It was noted that the Secretary-General of the UN is visiting the Met Pavilion in Shanghai and a letter should be sent to him thanking him for his support. It was also noted that there should be a letter sent to FIM thanking them for facilitating this AGM.

Members noted that the committee should formulate a new mission statement to set an agenda for the future work on the association.