



Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Association held on Tuesday 1st September 2009 at 19.15 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel (Lobby), Geneva, Switzerland.

In attendance: John Teather, Bill Giles, Jay Trobec, Francis Wilson, Claire Martin, Tomas Molina, Dieter Walch, Inge Niedek, Gerald Fleming, Panos Giannopoulos, Claire Douglas, Yoshikaza Idesako, Daniel Corbet, Steve Quao, Tantana Mikora, John Toohey Morales.

1. Apologies for absence were received for Michael Walsh, Evelyn Cusak, Monica Lopez, Albert Berniol, Enric Agud, Jfrey Janue, Richard Chapman. There were no postal votes.

2. Minutes of the 14th Annual General meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record and proposed for adoption by Claire Martin and seconded by Tomas Molina and unanimously agreed by all present.

3. Any matters arising.

There were no matters rising.

4. Report from the Chairman, Claire Martin.

Who would have realized that in 12 short months since our last meeting, and my last report, that the world economy would have virtually eclipsed all other newsworthy events in our lives? It has become the new focal point for our politicians and diplomats and, even within our own industry, the leading story of many newscasts. For the first time since the Great Depression business and economic news have been paid greater attention than daily weather forecasts, climate change and the environmental issues.

Unfortunately we – as an organization – have discovered we are not immune to the global recession. Cash had literally dried up from all sources and we have struggled to finance even the barest of connections with our members.

With that said, it remains steadfastly important for us to exist as a group. The network of colleagues we have built, the infrastructure we have developed, the observing status we have achieved within the World Meteorological Organization – all these remain vital aspects to our industry, and to those that we represent – to you our members.

We do however need to re-focus our mandate. During these “leaner” times it is easy to lose our sense of who we are, and what we do, while worrying about the finances. We are a voice for broadcast meteorologists and weather presenters from around the world to tackle common issues. As a group we actually carry weight. It is widely recognized that lack of funds have hindered us, but we cannot get sidetracked into solely bemoaning this fact.

Looking forward to 2010 and beyond many issues remain – the lack of consistent on air training for weather broadcasters around the world remains paramount. We must also re-assert our commitment to helping those regions in the world where weather presentation is still a fledgling aspect of television and radio. To this end we must remind the World Meteorological Organization of its commitment to further the safety and security of people around the world, and that the effective delivery of weather warnings (potentially life saving information) and timely, understandable climate change information is part of that commitment and is a role we excel in. And as a group we need to be able to meet en masse to share our stories and grow as an organization.

2010 may very well end up being a do or die year for us. If we do not evolve into a useful group for our members, the lack of funds, together with the lack of goals may very well mean the demise of us.

5. Report from the Honorary Secretary, John Teather.

The committee met twice during the year covered by this report on the 2nd October 2008 in Amsterdam and 31st August 2009 in Geneva. As usual, the inability to meet more often is a continuing problem for the association and greatly affects its ability to be effective. Regular contact by email was made throughout the year.

The association was only able to publish one edition of UP FRONT this year although the target was three editions. My thanks to all those who contributed.

Following the committee meeting last October it was decided to change the method of collecting subscriptions. Employing an Irish web- based system 'FeePay' has proved successful, although the Treasurer will need to pay attention to back payments of outstanding subscriptions.

During the year the web-site was regularly updated.

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

International Association of Broadcast Meteorology Income / Expenditure for 2008 (In Euro)

Carried Forward from 2007			€1,978
Income			
Interest earned	7		
Greenwave / Forfás Income	4,000		
EC Barcelona / Zaragoza	4,500		
Subscriptions	3,365	€11,872	€13,850
Expenditure			
Audit and Accounts (2 years)	2,420	2,420	
Companies Office – Fees (3 years)	408	408	
Travel	1,274	1,274	
Repay Directors Loan	2,000	2,000	
Printing and Postage	1,305	1,305	
Bank Charges	39	39	
Withholding Tax	800	800	
		8,246	€8,246

Excess of income over expenditure

€3,626

In account, Jan 1st 2009

€5,604

Made up as follows:

Current Account (€4,295)	4,295
Deposit Account (US\$1,367)	976
UK Account (£266)	333

N.B. Compiled using the following exchange rates: €1.00 = US\$1.40 = £0.80

Notes to the accounts:

1. The accounts are shown in Euro with the appropriate conversion rates to US Dollars and Pounds Sterling. As conversion rates varied significantly through 2008, approximate values for the latter months of the year are used.
2. 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 is to facilitate the collection of fees through the PayPal system.
3. The major items of expenditure were connected to the preparation of accounts to cover two years (2007/2008). This is needed to be achieved to ensure the continued sound legal identity of the organisation.
4. The Withholding Tax shown should be largely recoverable from the Irish tax authorities; the accountants to the IABM are finalising the accounts for submission. The tax was charged on fees earned in respect of the Greenwave project.
5. 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).
6. 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 Fleming, Treasurer, 30th August 2009

In answer to a question, GF agreed to check the security of the FeePay System.

7. Election of Directors and Officers.

Following the decision of JT not to stand again as Secretary and other officers who had not put their names forward, there was considerable discussion on the way forward. JT reiterated what he had said the previous evening's committee meeting. He was concerned that the easy money and organising staff of the CBN-E, had eclipsed the IABM, and seduced some members of the IABM committee. He was worried that association had lost its way by not being sufficiently member focussed, and not carrying out a basic object by no longer sending anyone to the WMO Executive Council each year. JT felt that as he had left the BBC 8 years ago, it was time for new blood to be involved. CM and IN pointed out that the experience that JT had was unique and loosing access to that and his energies would harm the IABM. Following further discussion and interjections, JT agreed to put his name forward again.

The following persons were elected: (proposed and seconder in brackets)

Chairman	Claire Martin	<i>(Inge Niedek/Daniel Corbett)</i>
Vice Chairman	Tomas Molina	<i>(Gerald Fleming/ Panos Giannopoulos)</i>
Secretary	John Teather	<i>(Bill Giles/Inge Niedek)</i>

Treasurer	Gerald Fleming	<i>(Dieter Walsh/Jay Trobec)</i>
Membership	Inge Neidek	<i>(Tantana Mikora/Tomas Molina)</i>
Publications	Bill Giles	<i>(Gerald Fleming/Claire Martin)</i>
Ordinary Directors	Paul Gross	<i>(Jay Trobec/Claire Martin)</i>
	Richard Chapman	..
	Panos Giannopoulos	..
	Dieter Walsh	..
African Representative	Steve Nyarkotey Quao	<i>(Gerald Fleming/Tomas Molina)</i>
Asia Representative	Yoshikazu Idesako	<i>(Inge Niedek/Daniel Corbett)</i>

8. Resolutions.

There were no resolutions.

9. Any other business.

There was no further formal business, however, many of the central points raised earlier was discussed again. The topics are summarised as:

- Reaffirmation of our successes to date
- More focus toward our members
- Lobby WMO to sponsor more training for broadcast meteorologists
- Attendance at WMO Executive Council every year
- Publish UP FRONT more often
- To do more work on an international seal of approval
- To continue to seek to stage a 2nd World Conference
- Increase membership and work on subscription payments

The meeting closed at 2000 due to a dinner being hosted by CBN-E.