



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCAST METEOROLOGY

9th Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Broadcast Meteorology

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2003 at the Union House,
UEA Norwich during the RMS Conference 2003 at 1430.

1. Attendees

In attendance at the meeting were Bill Giles, Francis Wilson, Tomas Molina, Gerald Fleming, John Teather.

Proxy Votes received from: Andrew Riley, Jeremy Hall, Claire Martin, Paul Gross, Inge Niedek, Philippe Jeanneret, Dieter Walch, Jofre Janue, Enric Agud, Monica Lopez, Gemma Puig, Albert Barniol, Max Henriquez, Evelyn Cusack, Michael Walsh.

Observers: Andrew Lane and Liz Walker

Apologies: None were received over and above the proxy votes.

The meeting was judged quorate and the business proceeded.

2. Minutes of the 8th Annual General meeting, held in Williamsburg on Wednesday 27th June 2002.

3. Any matters arising.

John Teather noted the absence of David Braine when he had asked at the previous AGM for this years to be held in the UK. The committee had organised in Norwich and were disappointed not to see him there.

4. Report of the outgoing Chairman, Gerald Fleming.

The Chairman began his report by remarking on the fact that it had been a very busy year for the Association and its officers. The IABM had published four Newsletters; its target for the year, and this was possible primarily because the Secretary had retired from his position in the BBC and was now more free to contribute time to Association business. The Website was also now updated more regularly, and thus our services to, and connection with, our members had improved significantly.

“We had a number of visits to Geneva to meet with WMO and attend WMO events; most especially for the Fourteenth World Meteorological Congress in May. Attendance at this event, spread out over three weeks, represented a considerable challenge to the IABM in terms of both cost and time; we had representatives at Congress for the first two weeks and were able to contribute to the debates on all the topics of interest and relevance to broadcasters.

There was not much to report in terms of the ongoing debate on data exchange issues. Development in Europe – most especially in Germany – suggested that the original vision that had underpinned ECOMET was no longer sustainable, and some NMHS's were now withdrawing from the commercial and broadcast markets. Our stance was to continue to engage in dialogue with ECOMET and the European Met Services; we did not foresee ourselves taking the more adversarial route favoured by the Association of Environmental Data Users in Europe (AEDUE), for example.

There was not much to report in the area of training and certification, although we planned to use the upcoming Barcelona conference to hold a training event for weather broadcasters from developing countries in conjunction with WMO.

Planning for the First World Conference on Broadcast Meteorology, to give the full and proper name, had taken up much time and energy over the past 12 months. At the time of the Eighth AGM, we had planned to hold a conference in Geneva in partnership with the AMS and with WMO. These plans ran into difficulties when it became apparent that the costs involved would have necessitated an uneconomic level of conference fee. Through the contacts of Tomas Molina we then were introduced to the Forum Barcelona 2004 organisation, and they agreed to provide very generous sponsorship for our proposed Conference. We are now putting together the programme for what will be a very exciting and challenging event; an event that will bring world-class speakers and experts together with weather broadcasters from all around the globe.

While the greatest burden of work necessarily falls on the shoulders of the officials and committee of the Association, there is much that the ordinary member can do to make their contribution. They can help greatly by paying their subscription in a timely manner, but they can also help by contributing articles for our Newsletter and Website. The IABM is primarily a vehicle for its members to keep in contact with their profession. Nothing gives myself and the other officers more pleasure than seeing members using the Association to the full to make and keep contact with their colleagues, and to make their contribution to what is a fascinating and challenging vocation.

In conclusion, I would like to thank especially my colleagues on the committee for all their work and dedication through the coming year. Their support and camaraderie lightens the burdens and responsibilities of office."

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

John Teather added his endorsement to the report of the Chairman, in particular noting the important role played by the Association in the debate of WMO.

6. Report of the outgoing Treasurer, Gerald Fleming.

Gerald Fleming explained the background to the accounts and the complication of having to present them in both Euros and US Dollars. He noted the importance of maintaining the income from subscriptions, although in the next financial period, there would be income from the Barcelona Conference.

International Association of Broadcast Meteorology

Income / Expenditure for 2002 (In U.S. Dollars)

Carried Forward from 2001		7,930	
Income			
Interest earned	4		
Subscriptions	7,274	7,278	15,208
Expenditure			
<i>Printing – IABM News</i>	2,726		
<i>Printing – Conference 2004</i>	787	3,513	
<i>Mailing and Stationary</i>	884	884	
<i>Website</i>			
<i>Registration Fees / Maintenance</i>	634		
<i>Software Purchases</i>	598	1,232	
<i>Meetings and Conferences</i>			
<i>Geneva – WMO and ECOMET</i>	2,127		
<i>Attendance at AMS, Williamsburg</i>	3,020	5,147	
<i>Audit and Accountancy – 3 years</i>	1,430	1,430	
<i>Credit card commission</i>	244		
<i>Bank charges</i>	55	299	

Committee Expenses	107	107	12,612	12,612
Excess of expenditure over income			5,334	
In account, Dec 31st 2002				2,596

Made up as follows:

Current Account (€1,162)	1,141
Deposit Account (in US\$)	1,455

*N.B. Compiled using the following exchange rates:
US\$0.98187 = €1.00, or US\$1.00 = €1.01847*

Income / Expenditure for 2002 (In Euro)

Carried Forward from 2001			8,077	
Income				
Interest earned	4			
Subscriptions	7,408	7,412		15,489
Expenditure				
Printing – IABM News	2776			
Printing – Conference 2004	802	3,578		
Mailing and Stationary	900	900		
Website				
Registration Fees / Maintenance	646			
Software Purchases	609	1,255		
Meetings and Conferences				
Geneva-WMO and ECOMET	2,166			
Attendance at AMS, Williamsburg	3,075	5,241		
Audit and Accountancy – 3 years	1,457	1,457		
Credit card commission	249			
Bank charges	56	305		
Committee Expenses	109	109	12,845	12,845
Excess of expenditure over income			5,433	
In account, Dec 31st 2002				2,644

Made up as follows:

Current Account (Euro)	1,162
Deposit Account (US\$1,455)	1,482

*N.B. Compiled using the following exchange rates:
US\$0.98187 = €1.00, or US\$1.00 = €1.01847*

Notes to the accounts:

1. For convenience, the accounts are shown in US Dollars (black) and in Euro (blue)
2. Subscription income was up on 2001, but there about €1,000 of the subscription income shown in 2002 was, in fact, arrears from 2001. Allowing for this the subscription income was slightly down in the year. This was principally because a number of corporate members let their subscription lapse.
3. The accounts reflect the fact that Mr John Teather took over the editorship of the IABM News and also as webmaster to the association, so there is no longer any expenditure under these headings. As a quid pro quo, the IABM paid expenses for Mr Teather to attend the AMS Conference in Williamsburg. The cost of this is approximately equal to what we would have paid an editor and webmaster under the previous arrangements.
4. Printing costs for Conference 2004 relate to the printing of full-colour flyers (for the proposed conference in Geneva) and the printing of a poster to act as a backdrop to the IABM stand in Williamsburg.
5. The rise in expenditure reflects a much more busy year for the IABM; we published four editions of the IABM News (our target) and also developed the website significantly.
6. Accountancy figures relate to the preparation of accounts and filing of company returns for three years (99, 00 and 01). This work is required under Irish law to preserve the incorporated status of the Association. Irish law has recently been tightened up considerably in this regard.
7. The credit card commission and bank charges have risen significantly (though they still represent quite small amounts).
8. It is stating the obvious to say that expenditure has increased significantly; however this is probably the appropriate level for a properly-functioning organisation. The challenge will be to raise income to match this expenditure; this implies about 120 paying individual members and 10 paying corporate members.

Gerald Fleming
 Treasurer
 22nd August 2003.

7. Election of Directors and Officers.

The following Directors and Officers were elected. Proposed by Bill Giles and seconded by John Teather.

Chairman and Treasurer	Gerald Fleming
Secretary	John Teather
Vice-Chairmen	Inge Niedek; Dieter Walch, Tomas Molina
Publications Secretary	Bill Giles
Ordinary Director	Paul Gross

8. Resolutions.

There were no resolutions received

9. Any other business.

It was agreed that Tomas Molina be authorised to sign documents in connection with the Barcelona Conference.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1530.