



Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Broadcast Meteorology

Held on Friday 29th June 2001 at 1600, in the Minneapolis Hilton, USA during the AMS 30th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology.

In Attendance: Steve Swienckowski, Bill Giles, Claire Martin, Yoshikazu Idesako, Inge Niedek, Tomas Molina, Jim Jaggars, Bob Ryan, Gerald Fleming, John Kermond, Sam Muchemi, Paul Gross, John Teather.

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

Michihiko Tonouchi (substitute Mr Idesako), Jean Francois Leroux, David Knott, Joan Blackburn, Richard Chapman, Johan Groth, Jeremy Hall, Siri Kalvig, Andrew Lane, Hema Paupiah, Maria Pirone, Nigel Reed, Andrew Riley, Hugh Sheppard, Helen Young, Monica Lopes, Jofre Janue, Michael Walsh, Evelyn Cussak, Dieter Walch

2. Minutes of the Sixth Annual General meeting, held at WMO Geneva, 22nd March 2000

The adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Gerald Fleming, and seconded by Bill Giles.

3. Any matters arising.

Membership recruitment was raised by John Kermond and the problems were generally discussed.

4. Report of the outgoing Chairman, Inge Niedek.

"Welcome everybody in Minneapolis St. Paul. We choose this place in coordination with the AMS conference because we know that it is getting very difficult in these days to get away from the TV for all active broadcasters, and my colleague Dieter Walch, who is also a vice-president has to stay home, because otherwise I would not have been here.

It makes sense, that we try to combine as many occasions as possible to give at least some members the chance to participate in professional conferences and in our AGM.

My last term as chairperson is finished now. It has been very interesting, I have learnt a lot mainly in politics. I can summarize my experience in a few words: the first year you learn, the second year to start to work and the 3rd year you learn that by far only some of your targets could be realized during this period. Therefore I am handing on a lot projects.

You can see from the records and protocols and my views of the chair what we have been doing during the past years and I don't need to repeat it all right now, I will only pick out some specific points.

Regarding our political involvement in the WMO one of our major targets we have been working on since the beginning almost 7 years ago, was a mechanism, which would give us a more "official" relation to WMO. Normally WMO is an almost exclusive circle of Met Services. But as broadcasting of weather has evolved enormously over the past years we thought a dialogue between the original collector and producers of weather data and those who hand it

on to the public should be one of our utmost priorities. Our efforts resulted in the status of an "observing party" at WMO, which allows us to participate in all official WMO assemblies, to get more involved in WMO matters, and to get a deeper understanding of the important World Organization.

Very soon we learned about our limitations which are simply determined by manpower, time and money. We realized that it is impossible to fully take this chance, because somebody would have to spend weeks in Geneva. But I think we have reached a good solution in trying to find out about the agenda and participate when broadcast relevant issues are on the agenda.

The second point we learned is that it is very difficult to start a real dialogue with WMO concerning relevant issues as referring to the broadcasters and the media. There is basically no discussion forum to really discuss these issues, but we can place statements in the official assemblies and hope that they find their counterpart for attention. Also we have to consider that the democratic nature of WMO causes long decision-making processes. But despite all limitations we have appreciated the current solution and any dialogue very much. We managed together with WMO to organize a scientific Media Conference last year in Geneva, which had been quite successful and made us think of an "International" Broadcast Conference together with AMS and WMO in Geneva, because weather is a worldwide process and not a national one.

It took us about half a year to a Letter of Intent processed through WMO and finally it was too late to organize an international conference for 2002. But we are quite confident that it will take place within the next years.

Yesterday we had a meeting with AMS (Board of the Broadcast Conference in under the current Board Chair Mike McLelan, in attendance of the president of AMS, Bob Serafin, the meetings director, Yale Schiffman, other AMS-staff, Haleh Kootval, Chief, Public Weather and Operational Information from WMO, IABM current chair Inge Niedek, designated new chair Gerald Fleming IABM and other IABM members.

The participants of the meeting mutually agreed to hold an International Broadcast in 2004 in Geneva, considering besides others the two major arguments – namely:

1. to find profound reasons in order to gain acceptance for such an event from the TV-management of weather broadcasters
2. no higher expenses compared to those in the US for such an event.

This decision was of course a preliminary meeting decision and will have to be communicated and examined by the Board of Directors of AMS, and then presented and examined by WMO. After that we will have a joint meeting of all participating parties in Geneva.

Now I switch over to another theme which kept us occupied during all years of IABM existence – "data-policy" of the Met Services in Europe.

There has been formed an interest group of European Met Services "ECOMET" who worked out a concept on data-policy which we think is not suitable for weather-broadcasters. Over the years we tried to get a chance to discuss this issue with a group representing ECOMET, but there has not been any relevant body to speak to. The UK Met Office is the first institution (also a corporate member of IABM) which promised to help and organize a meeting with relevant people.

Before I finish my speech just a few comments on some future or ongoing projects.

1. One issue or outcome from the committee meeting was passing on our knowledge and experience in weather broadcasting through training (concept will be worked out).

2. *Work out a certification concept which could go along with the efforts of the National Met Services in this respect and should be accepted by WMO*
3. *Return to the new paper "on paper"*

Summing up I can say – most of the work has been done in close cooperation with the committee, it always was a joint effort and I want to express my warmest thanks to all committee members for their cooperation."

Bill Giles proposed a vote of thanks to Inge for all her hard work and members warmly applauded her.

Following on from the report on the meeting to discuss the AMS/IABM meeting, Bob Ryan proposed sending an open letter by email to USA News Directors explaining the purpose and costs of the 2004 Conference in Geneva. Radio & Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) would be a suitable organisation at which to promote the idea of the Conference. Attendance at the annual meeting of the RTNDA would be a suitable venue at which to propose the 2004 Conference and convince stations of the value of sending their broadcast meteorologists..

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

John Teather reported that the IABM Committee were only able to meet three times in the year on 20/6/00, 4/12/00 and 26/6/01. It is a reflection of the problems of running an international association. He reiterated the progress that the IABM had been able to make as observers at WMO. In particular attendance at two meetings of the Executive Council had produced results as the members of WMO are slowly recognising the importance of the broadcast profession and the need for NMSs to work with us. New training initiatives have been discussed with WMO to ensure that one of the primary purposes of the IABM can be realised. This includes working on proposals for an internationally recognised Email had been used with increasing effect during the past year as a means of communicating regularly with members. Finally he reported that the committee had agreed that new members from countries listed as developing by WMO would be offered free membership.

There was a general discussion on training issues in particular in developing countries and how the IABM can support and encourage these initiatives.

6. Report of the outgoing Treasurer, Gerald Fleming.

Income / Expenditure for 2000 (In U.S. Dollars)

Carried Forward from 1999		1,315	
Income			
WMO 50 / Subvention	9273		
Interest earned	106		
Corporate Subscriptions (6 x \$500)	3000		
Individual Subscriptions	5305	17,684	18,999
Expenditure			
<i>IABM News</i>			
<i>Editorial</i>	979		
<i>Printing</i>	224		
<i>Mailing</i>	320	1523	
<i>Website</i>			
<i>Registration Fees</i>	712		
<i>Webmaster / 12 Months</i>	1999	2711	

WMO 50		2210		
Executive Council, June 2000		1931		
Committee Meeting, December 2000		720		
Legal Expenses (Long term loan)		972		
Credit card commission	142			
Bank charges	53	195		
Repayment of Sub		83	10,345	10,345
Excess of income over expenditure			7,339	
In account, Dec 31st 2000				8,654

Made up as follows:				
Current Account (IR£81.80)				104
Deposit Account (in US\$)				8550

*N.B. Compiled using the following exchange rates:
US\$1.266 = IR£1.00*

It was agreed to also set the Membership currency to be also in Euros as well as US Dollars.

7. Election of Directors and Officers.

The following Directors and Officers were elected:

Chairman	Gerald Fleming
Secretary	John Teather
Treasurer	Gerald Fleming
Vice-Chairmen	Inge Niedek; Dieter Walch
Membership Secretary	Tomas Molina
Publications Secretary	Bill Giles
Ordinary Directors	Philippe Jeanerot; Paul Gross, Tammy Garrison

Proposed by John Kermond and seconded by Bill Giles and agreed by all members present.

8. Resolutions.

None were received.

9. Any other business.

It was proposed by Jim Jaggars that next year members of the IABM present papers during an International section of the conference.