



Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting of the Association held on **Saturday 22nd February 1997** at 1830 in the Hotel Ibis, Monrouge, Paris.

Those present: Gerald Fleming, Bill Giles, Inge Niedek, Jean Francois-Leroux, Peter Timofeeff, Monique Somers, Hamalah Olafson, Jurgen Vogt, Jorg Kachelmann, Andreas Steiper, Ray Wilkie, Hans-Reiner Bechert, Jan Pavlik, John Teather, Francis Wilson, Jose Antonio Maldonado, Phillippe Jeunere, Andrew Lane, Jerry Becnel, Siri Kalvig.

1. Apologies for absence and notification of postal votes.

Postal apologies from Tammy Garrison, Jim Little, Olivier Codeluppi, Thomas Molina, Ed Gross, Edward de Dycker, Seija Paasonen, Heinz Schollenberger. Further verbal apologies were received from Lea Sukukonsen, Dieter Walsh. Late arrival from Johan Groth, Danny Roup, Sharon Wexler.

2. Minutes of the AGM meeting Held on 22nd February 1996 and Special Meeting held on 27th February 1996

These were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report

The retiring Chairman, Gerald Fleming gave a full report. The text of which will follow.

A very warm welcome to you all to this, our third Annual General Meeting. Our Association has survived the excitement of the first flush of youth, and is now a hardy toddler beginning to make itself noticed in the wide outside world. The process of development, however, is not without its growing pains, and I feel that the Association is at the stage where we must ask ourselves some pertinent questions as to how we set about achieving our ideals.

Last year we had an AGM which was adjourned and then reconvened to discuss the whole issue of data commercialisation. The adjournment was to allow the members listen to representatives of Eumetsat, Ecomet, and WMO speak on this topic at the seminar held in conjunction with the sixth Festival International de Meteo. The reconvened meeting made some policy decisions regarding what we felt was our right to be heard by those who make decisions in regard to data commercialisation, decisions that can affect

the work of us all. Your committee has pursued these policy decisions, holding two gatherings since the last AGM. The first of these was in Boston, where many of us attended and contributed to the 25th Conference of the Broadcast Meteorology Group of the AMS. This was an excellent opportunity to meet with American and Canadian colleagues, to hear accounts both of their problems, and their views of the European problems. For the first time this Conference included an international section, partly because of the links that are being forged between the AMS and the IABM. The committee also met in Geneva in November, when we were able to discuss progress and make some plans for the time ahead.

On foot of the decisions at last years AGM, the Association has written to both Ecomet and Eumetsat requesting the right to make representations to the governing councils of these organisations. Eumetsat have offered us a meeting with their Director to explore the position with him and his advisors. We hope to be in a position to arrange this meeting soon. Ecomet as yet have not responded to our letter. We are aware that the EU is keeping a close eye on the development of Ecomet, and on its operation as an Economic Interest Grouping. If you, the members, have concrete examples of anti-competitive practices arising for the Ecomet arrangements, then please document them as best you can and send them to either of our Vice-Chairs, who have the task of compiling case histories that will allow us make meaningful representations to the EU on this matter. John Teather will bring you more up to date on the data commercialisation issue.

As part of our commitment to provide access to our data-base to all members, you will recently have received a listing of all current members, with addresses and contact phone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses.

One area of activity which we have not yet addressed is that of training, but we have a number of plans in this area which we hope to advance during the coming year.

I must turn now to the relationship between the Association and the Festival International de Meteo. The original idea of those of us who set up the Association was that it there would be synergy between these two organisations; that each would complement the other. The actual relationship has turned out to be more problematic. Last years seminar on data commercialisation was, we understand, not entirely welcomed by some sponsors of the Festival. This year invitations to the Festival have not been extended to most, if not all, of the committee members of the IABM. The Festival organisers are, of course, perfectly within their rights to invite whomsoever they please to Issy-les-Moulineaux. If the organisers wish the Festival to be fundamentally a social event, and invite different people from year to year, then that is entirely their prerogative. However it does then seem that the manner in which the Association has been able to use the occasion of the Festival to hold its AGM must come to an end. We propose that the next AGM of the Association should be at another place and probably also another time; perhaps late in 1997 or during the spring of 1998. We acknowledge that this will be less convenient for some of our members, but it seems that this is unavoidable.

Another big step looms for the Association; do we take on the services of a part-time organiser? The workload of running the Association, even at its present level, is considerable, and the shoulders that carry that load are already burdened with an amount of other work! We will shortly have the possibility of engaging the services of someone recently retired who has much experience in this business, and who would be prepared to work part-time for little more than expenses, to begin with at any rate. Being realistic, this would mean an increase in subscriptions, and we have made a proposal tonight to cover that eventuality. The two relevant motions will come up for discussion later. It is for you, the members, to decide whether this is the right time to take this significant step.

I have been privileged to serve the Association as Chairman for two years now. Should I have the honour of being re-elected, the coming year must be my last, as our rules specify three years maximum for office holders. All of the officers remain committed to the IABM, and will be happy to continue to serve you in whatever capacity you see fit, but we would also welcome some new blood at committee level. Some of you may wish to consider offering yourselves, if not this year then perhaps next year.

I would like to thank all my fellow directors for their time and expertise over the past year, and not least for putting up with my inefficiencies on many occasions. A note of thanks to Met Éireann and to RTE for providing me with facilities for carrying out Association business; also to my wife for allowing me to use her office facilities to the same end.

4. Honorary Secretary's Report

The retiring Honorary Secretary, John Teather reported that there were currently 76 members of the Association, made up of 26 founders, 40 Full, 5 Associate and 5 Corporate. Members were drawn from Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Mauritius, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA and the UK.

The Management Committee had managed to meet twice since the last Annual General Meeting, in Boston in June 1996 and again in Geneva in December 1996. However, regular contacts were made throughout the year by telephone, fax and e-mail. The main decisions taken were to change the means of payment of subscriptions by Credit Card, to seek the employment of a paid official, to hold an annual conference at a venue other than Paris, and continue to represent the members of association in the data commercialisation debate.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Chairman tabled a summary of the current financial situation based on information provided by the Honorary Treasurer, Edward De Dycker. He noted that it has been decided to set the date of the annual subscription as 1st September each year. The

Chairman detailed the income received from subscriptions and noted the problems with currency conversion. He detailed the expenses that were incurred in setting up the company and registering it as an international organisation. There had been some expense in setting up an international credit card account to improve the means of recovering members subscriptions. In summary the Chairman felt that were now properly constituted. Adoption of the accounts were proposed by Bill Giles, and seconded by Francis Wilson. Members unanimously Agreed.

6. Election of Directors/Officers

Members elected the following to serve as the Board of directors for the ensuing year.

Gerald Fleming was elected as Chairman - Proposed by Andreas Steiper and Seconded by Inge Deidek

John Teather was elected as Honorary Secretary - Proposed by Siri Kalvig and seconded by Johan Kachelman. Carried unanimously.

Edward De Dycker Election was elected as Honorary Treasurer - Proposed by Bill Giles and seconded by Inge Niedek. Carried unaminously.

Inge Neidek & Bill Giles were elected as Vice-Chairmen - Proposed by Andreas Steiper and seconded by Jean Francois Leroux. Carried unanimously.

Johan Groth was elected as Membership Secretary - Proposed by Siri Kalvig and seconded by Francis Wilson. Carried unanimously.

Jose Antonio Maldonado was elected as Ordinary Director - Proposed by Francis Wilson and seconded by Phillipe Jeanneroux. Carried unanimously.

Jean Francois Leroux was elected as Election of Director of International Affairs - Proposed by Inge Niedek and seconded by Siri Kalvig. Carried unanimously.

7. Company Matters

It was reported that at the meeting of the Committee held in Geneva in November 1996 members discussed the future of the Association into the next century and how it could address the problems of being both an international and under-funded organisation. The members decided to recommend to the Annual General Meeting two initiatives to start addressing the problems:

Following discussion, members resolved that the Association should seek to appoint a paid official to help carry out the Associations policy. The Chairman was authorised to approach a suitably qualified person to discuss the terms of such a position. Proposed by Siri Kalvig seconded by Andreas Steiper. Carried unanimously.

Members also agreed that the annual subscriptions should be increased for the next period from \$50 to \$75 for full and associate members and from \$200 to a minimum \$500 for Corporate members. Members discussed how to persuade other TV Stations to join. It was agreed that Bill Giles would prepare a brochure to explain the benefits, and this would be distributed to members to help them with this task. Proposed by Andrew Lane seconded by Francis Wilson. Carried unanimously.

9. Any Other Business.

Members discussed whether the AGM should be held in future in Paris. It was agreed that for the Association to develop it would be better to find a different venue each year. All members were asked to investigate the possibilities within their own countries.