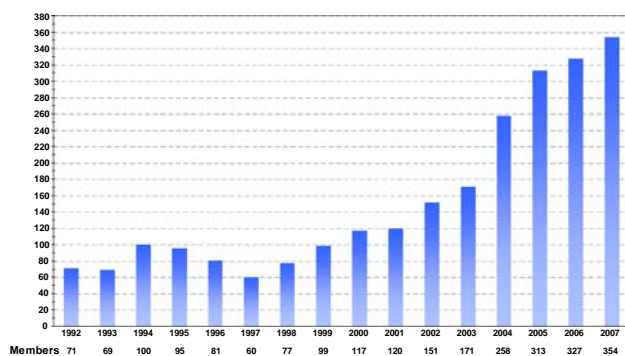


## A Word from the Secretary General

Dear colleagues and friends,

Do you like our new style with colour throughout the journal? This is not a special issue; from now on, our entire journal will be in colour. Authors who prefer to submit manuscripts in black and white will be allowed to do so, but there will be no extra charge to the authors (or to the readers) for colour figures. Springer decided to print *Mine Water and the Environment* in colour because our journal sells very well, and our membership is steadily increasing. However, there is no need to fear that this journal will become a “Mickey Mouse” journal. Our editors and associate editors will make sure that you always get a high-quality scientific mine water journal.

Today, I will go a little bit into IMWA’s history: during the past 10 years, IMWA’s membership has increased from 60 paying members to 354 at the end of 2007 (Fig. 1),



**Fig. 1** Development of IMWA membership between 1992 and 2007

which equals a mean annual increase of 20% and a total of 490%. There are several reasons for this improvement of IMWA. First, after the Bled 1997 meeting, Bob Kleinmann became editor of *Mine Water and the Environment* and the number and quality of papers since then has steadily increased. Then, on February 14, 1998, the IWMA web page officially started to work. In the same year, the first IWMA folder describing the Association and the benefits of membership was produced; since then over 10,000 copies have been distributed to colleagues at various professional events by our members (if you want copies of the folder, just let us know)—currently the 12th edition is in

use. Also, in 1998 we contacted Springer to have our journal produced at a highly reputed printing house. Long-time members may remember that for a long time, IMWA arranged for the printing and distribution of each issue on its own. Our linkage with Springer became official in 2000. In the same year, we launched our web-presentation, which increased the number of web impacts significantly. 2001 brought a change in the IMWA administration: Vladimir Straskraba suddenly died and Adrian Brown became IMWA’s treasurer. He started to send out invoices and improved membership management, which helped members stay with IMWA. Once more, we changed our URL in 2002, when we were able to obtain <http://www.IWMA.info>. 2003 meant a new corporate identity for IMWA. We went away from old-fashioned letters and introduced the IMWA corporate identity—this process is still underway. In 2005, IMWA and the French post-mining association GISOS started co-operating; since then, many French members have joined IMWA. One year later, the scanning of all the old IMWA journals was initiated; it was finished 1 year thereafter. In 2007, IMWA decided to attract more corporate members by improving the web presentation of those members: they are now featured on the first page of the IMWA web site. Last year, we also changed the production process of our journal; instead of providing Springer with camera-ready copy, the journal is now typeset by Springer’s associates in India, which again improved the journal’s quality. Also, last year, the North American chapter of IMWA was established, with the hope of attracting more North America colleagues. The number of pages in our journal has steadily increased, from a total of 136 pages in 2000, to 192 pages in 2004, to up to 336 pages per year at present—all at no additional cost to our members! Finally, our membership has grown because our members, and especially our executive council members, promote IMWA to their peers.

Since last year we have a new face behind the production of our journal: besides Bob Kleinmann and Colin Booth as editors, and me as a technical editor, Romy Matthies will take care of the figures in our journal. You will get to know more about her in future issues of *Mine Water and the Environment*.

What comes next? This year, as mentioned earlier, our journal will be fully printed in colour. Springer has again

asked that our journal be incorporated into the Science Citation Index; we should learn if we are successful this time sometime this summer. Also, the web page will be transferred to a context management system, which should make many things easier for us and for you as a member.

All this would not have been possible without one single person: You. Please renew your membership/subscription in 2008 and do what you can to help us to increase our membership by another 20%, to 425 members at the end of this year. If all of you speak to your colleagues and tell them what IMWA is doing, we should easily be able to reach that number of contributing members.

Glückauf  
Chris Wolkersdorfer

### CoSTaR: Apply Now for EU-Funded Research Opportunities on Mine Water Remediation

The CoSTaR project—Coal Mine Sites for Targeted Remediation Research—offers opportunities to scientists from all over Europe to study full-scale mine water treatment systems. CoSTaR is run by the HERO group of Newcastle University, UK, and is part of the European Commission's 6th Framework "Access to Research Infrastructure" funding programme. CoSTaR comprises six full-scale bioreactors, including a permeable reactive barrier, a compost wetland, a reducing and alkalinity producing system (RAPS), and four varieties of aerobic wetlands (receiving a range of acidic and alkaline mine waters, in one case with peroxide pre-dosing). Visiting researchers from across Europe come to Newcastle for periods of time ranging from a few weeks to up to 3 months in order to carry out project work on processes of pollutant release and remediation and allied fundamental biogeochemical processes, using the dedicated sites and working alongside existing HERO group researchers.

Funding for visitors to CoSTaR has been extended until the end of October 2008, covering all the costs of travel, accommodation, and consumables for experiments, etc. Interested researchers from EU Member States can apply now to take part in the programme. For more information, e-mail [costar@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:costar@ncl.ac.uk) or go to <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/environment/research/HEROCOSTAR>.

### Ligmet™ Metal-Immobilizer

Our member Ming Zhuang informs us about the following treatment tests with Ligmet™:

To prevent water contamination, it is very important to immobilize the leachable metals in solid wastes, such as

tailings and sludges. The metal-immobilization function of NORAM's Ligmet™ stabilizer has been proved in the treatment of varied waste solids contaminated with metals, including Hg, Ni, and As. Recently, the Ligmet™ stabilizer has been tested in lab-based pilot studies conducted by the Commonwealth Scientific Research Organisation (CSIRO, Australia) in a joint project with PT Newmont Nusa Tenggara.

Ming reports the test results of four different treatments used in an attempt to immobilize Cu and Mn in seawater from stockpile-produced tailings. The results showed that Ligmet™ treatment of the tailings was the most effective at reducing dissolved metal concentrations. The NaSH treatment was effective over the short term for copper, but not for manganese. The Bauxsol™ (a red mud residue) treatment was less effective. The pyrite treatment was ineffective.

The patented Ligmet™ stabilizer is mainly composed of hydrous ferric oxide and lignosulphonates, which has a high binding affinity for metals. The treatment of tailings with Ligmet™ resulted in lower dCu and dMn concentrations in all treatments when compared to tests without added Ligmet™. Generally, dCu concentrations were 40–80% lower and dMn concentrations were 10–20% lower in Ligmet™-amended tests compared to unamended tests (all time points). These effects were greater when the Ligmet™ concentration was increased from 0.5 to 3% (w/w tailings).

Jun Ming Zhuang, Vancouver

### New Members

We welcome our following new members:

Sandra Ainsworth, Miami, USA  
Hubert Bril, Limoges, France  
Patrick Byrne, Loughborough, UK  
Neil Davies, Birkenhead, UK  
Glenys Fogarty, Melbourne, Australia  
Jerzy Jankowski, Penrith, Australia  
Jess W. Jones, Blacksburg, USA  
Helmuth Landsmann, Bärnbach, Austria  
Robert MacDonald, Sydney, Canada  
Albertus Wynand Christoffel Marais, Gauteng, South Africa  
Michael Martin, Peine, Germany  
Ross McCurdy, Sydney, Canada  
Tom Sharp, OroValley, USA  
Joseph Shea, Sydney, Canada  
Wendy Timms, Manly Vale, Australia

We hope that our new colleagues will benefit from and contribute to the extensive mine water knowledge and

expertise gathered within our group of international experts. Please use your membership number in any correspondence, especially money transfers with IMWA. You can find it easily on your journal's address label, in front of the word "GES".

Adrian Brown, Treasurer, Denver, Colorado, USA;  
Chris Wolkersdorfer, Secretary General,  
Munich, Germany

### Back Issues

An overview of European mine water was provided over three issues in 2005. We received many requests for those three issues and therefore decided to put together those country studies in one electronic article. You can download it from IMWA's home page or use the following Digital Object Identifier: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10230-005-0081-3>.

Members who recently joined IMWA can find a complete index (issues 1–26) of the *International Mine Water Association Journal* and *Mine Water and the Environment* at our webpage <http://www.IMWA.info>. Volumes 17(1), 18(1), 19(2), 20(1) and 21(1) as well as proceedings of the seventh and eighth IMWA Congresses are still available for \$15.00 (U.S.) a copy. Some other back-issues are available on request—copies of single pages at \$ 0.60 (U.S.) each. Please add \$ 5.00 (U.S.) for shipping/handling. You can also access the journal on line, using <http://www.imwa.info/springer>.

Past IMWA issues, published before the year 2000, can be accessed with your private login and password that you received with your last membership status or by e-mail.

Chris Wolkersdorfer, Munich, Germany

### EU Money Transfers

According to European law, EU money transfers (in EURO) must not cost more than national money transfers if you use IMWA's IBAN and BIC numbers (they must also be printed on your bank's money transfer statements). The banks are not allowed to charge extra costs. If they do so, please contact your national Complaint Body (see below). Your bank might tell you that those regulations will only be

valid in 2008. In fact, this is not true! In 2008, the SEPA system will come into force. This system will harmonize EU and international money transfers but the law has been in force since 2004! Please keep in mind: EU money transfers are not international money transfers! This law does not apply to these European countries: Andorra, Monaco, Switzerland, San Marino, and the Holy See.

Here is the link to the EU payment legislation: [http://www.imwa.info/eu\\_payment](http://www.imwa.info/eu_payment). If you have problems with your bank (and they often cause problems), your country has a national Complaint Body:

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/payments/crossborder/complaintbodies\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/payments/crossborder/complaintbodies_en.htm)

Please help yourself and IMWA to save money by complaining if your bank does not accept EU or SEPA money transfers.

Adrian Brown, Treasurer, Denver, Colorado, USA;  
Chris Wolkersdorfer, Secretary General,  
Munich, Germany

### Forthcoming Events

*April 22nd–23rd 2008, Ramada Inn, Morgantown, WV, USA*

West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium  
<http://wvmdtaskforce.com/symposium/>

*June 1st–5th 2008, Carlsbad, Czech Republic*

**10th IMWA Congress**  
<http://www.IMWA.info>; imwa2008@IMWA.info

*September 14th–18th 2008, Freiberg/Saxony, Germany*  
5th International Conference on "Uranium Mining and Hydrogeology"  
<http://www.geo.tu-freiberg.de/umh/>

*June 22nd–26th 2009, Sweden*

ICARD 2009—"Securing The Future"  
<http://www.securingskelleftea.se>

*September 2011, Aachen, Germany*

**11th IMWA Congress**  
<http://www.IMWA.info>; imwa2011@IMWA.info