

International Glaciological Society British Branch

Minutes from 2020 Annual General Meeting

Cyberspace, 9th October 2020

President:	Anne Le Brocq (ALB)
Vice-President:	Rachel Carr (JRC)
Secretary [also representing IGS Council]:	Amber Leeson (AAL)
Treasurer:	Nick Rutter (NJR)
Early-Career Representative:	Rebecca Schlegel (RS)
Ex-President [also representing IGS Council]:	Robert Bingham (RGB)
IGS Head Office:	Magnús Magnusson (MMM)

Meeting commenced 16:15.

1. ALB and AAL sent apologies. RGB chaired the meeting.
2. Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
3. IGS British Branch Statutes
 - a. The IGS British Branch has operated for many years on principles following draft statutes drawn up in 26 March 1974, with some amendments recommended shortly afterwards. These statutes and amendments have been available on the IGS British Branch website and are provided here as Appendix 1.
 - b. At the 2019 IGSBB AGM, it was agreed to translate this document to a new set of statutes, with slight revisions implemented to reflect the present-day operation; for example, to include the post of Early-Career Representative on the IGSBB Committee, as voted in at the 2019 AGM.
 - c. RGB presented the revised statutes as written in Appendix 2, with changes to the previous wording highlighted in red.
 - d. RGB proposed that the AGM accept the revised statutes, and that these be published on the IGS British Branch website in place of the existing statutes (or the existing statutes pdf document could remain somewhere in an archival capacity). The motion was seconded by Ian Evans and Rachel Carr, and no objections were raised at the AGM.
 - e. RGB highlighted that Statute 3 noted that the IGSBB Committee should also, at any given time, also include “any members of the Branch on the Council of the International Glaciological Society” and that this practice has not been formally followed or acknowledged for many years. Presently the two UK members of IGS Council are AAL and RGB, so there is nothing to amend at present, but the Branch should be aware of this for future reference.

ACTION -> MMM to post revised statutes on IGSBB website.

4. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. NJR reported that the current balance is £5379.47.
 - b. The only spend over the year was £100 on the John Glen Prizes from the 2019 Northumbria meeting.
 - c. The sole income was £2932.30, the total profit made from the Northumbria meeting. NJR explained that this was not predicted, otherwise Northumbria would have more heavily subsidised student

registration. In fact, at the point of abstracts closing, the meeting had been due to make a small loss, but an unexpectedly large number of late registrations in the month before the event led to the break-even point being substantially exceeded.

- d. The funds continue to exist as a reserve primarily if a future British Branch meeting were ever to go unexpectedly over budget, but there is scope to use some of the funds for any activities the Branch would like to support.

5. IGS Head Office Report

- a. Although several events had been planned for the year 2021 they all fell through apart from the Branch meetings. The New Zealand branch meeting (SIRG) was successfully held beginning February 'in person' on Mitiu Somes Island, located in the Wellington Harbour, before the pandemic hit. The resurrection of the USA IGS Eastern Branch was scheduled for April but was postponed until the autumn in good faith but was eventually transferred to cyberspace. The Northwest Glaciologists' Meeting was held in cyberspace as well in October.

The IGS office in BAS has been empty since beginning of April and to gain access to the office we must apply for permission from the building authorities. So until it is safe to return to the building we are working from home.

Because of worldwide symposia and meeting cancellations the future time-space is becoming increasingly congested. It feels like a tsunami pushing physical events ahead of it and becoming more and more cluttered. Our next scheduled physical symposium is due to be held in La Jolla, San Diego in July 2021. We can only hope for the best.

6. Future British Branch meetings

- a. It was agreed that the 2021 meeting will be hosted by the University of Liverpool. The aspiration is for this to be in the usual in-person format in Liverpool in early September 2021, but the final format will rest with evolution of the covid-19 pandemic.
- b. It was agreed that the 2022 meeting will be hosted by the University of Edinburgh alongside the 2022 UK Antarctic Science Conference (as intended for this meeting but waylaid by the pandemic).
- c. Discussion on venues/hosts beyond 2022 was deferred for future AGMs.

7. AOB

- a. Francisco Navarro (President, IGS Council) highlighted the need for the UK to appoint a new National Correspondent, as Bryn Hubbard plans to step aside after having served as UK correspondent since 1995.

The main duty of a National Correspondent is the promotion of the IGS in the correspondent's country, by

- encouraging and keeping track of IGS membership,
- promoting the publication of papers in the Journal of Glaciology and the Annals of Glaciology, as well as the attendance to IGS symposia.

This should be accompanied by submitting to the Secretary General of the IGS (Magnús Már Magnússon, magnus@igsoc.org) any brief news of relevance or special interest on glaciological activities or projects developed in your country, for diffusion through the ICE Bulletin and/or the IGS website news or social media.

ACTION -> IGS Committee to seek a volunteer for this role.

- b. MMM raised the issue of building a GDPR-compliant list of British Branch members. The IGS Head Office would like to be able communicate with all BB members, not only those who are IGS members

as well. Indeed, we are often asked if there is such a list, in particular relating to the annual BB meeting. One way to do this would be to charge a small levy for British Branch members, collected by the IGS. Members would sign into the IGS Portal, pay their pennies and tick the box for BB membership. This would allow us to identify BB members and thus generate such a list.

Interestingly, looking through the BB statutes, there is a sentence under statute 4, 'The Branch may levy a subscription to cover the office expenses of the Branch; such subscription shall be determined by the Committee'.

This would be a small levy, of the order of a few pounds and whatever that would be raised by such means would be transferred to the British Branch and could potentially be used by the British Branch for e.g. early-career subsidies.