

International Glaciological Society British Branch

Minutes from 2013 Annual General Meeting

Department of Geography, Loughborough University, 5th September 2013

President: Jemma Wadham (JLW, absent from meeting, apologies noted in 1 below)
Vice-President: Edward King (ECK, Chair)
Secretary: Robert Bingham (RGB)
Treasurer: Richard Hodgkins (RH)
IGS Head Office: Magnús Magnusson (MMM)
Ex-President: Peter Nienow (PWN)

Meeting commenced 13:50.

1. Apologies were noted from JLW.
ECK also noted that he had received further apologies for this year's AGM from long-standing attendees Andy Smith, Chris Stokes and Martyn Tranter.
2. Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
There were two action points from the previous meeting, acted upon as follows:
 - a) That the organiser of each IGSSBB should ensure no clash takes place with the similarly-timed National Committee for Antarctic Research (NCAR) Arctic/Antarctic meetings also scheduled each September. RH confirmed that he had done this for 2013. The message was passed on to Bristol organisers for the 2014 meeting (see point 4a below).
 - b) IGS Website. This has been advanced through the efforts of JLW and MMM in particular, and a putative version is now available, hosted by the IGS, at <http://www.igsoc.org/about/britishbranch/>. On here, it is currently possible to view the IGSSBB minutes from the last two meetings, and shortly further items will be added including reports from the previous meetings. A copy of the Statutes drawn up at the founding of IGSSBB has been supplied by John Glen and will be added to the website (see point 5 below). The intention is that this website can act as a suitable and stable repository for all items pertaining to the British Branch of IGS.
3. Treasurer's report.
 - a) RH reported no change in the IGSSBB account from the previous year's balance of £2,982.35. Essentially no financial transactions have taken place. The major reason for any input/output has been the annual meeting, and with last year's meeting at Aberdeen breaking even, no effect on the IGSSBB balance was made.
 - b) The meeting discussed whether the current model of maintaining the balance still made sense. ECK clarified the point from the previous year that the fund essentially acts as a contingency fund in the event local organisers of the meeting needed any form of bail-out from an unseen overspend. ECK further noted that the balance, while suitable for the above purpose, is insufficient to support activities beyond the meeting. The motion was carried that the current model of financial management continues to be the best way forward.
 - c) John Glen noted that in the past some funds had been made available from meetings to support the attendance of young researchers, and queried whether this practice was still being continued. RH responded that, in this particular year, the subsidy had been implicit, as the meeting had been subsidised by Loughborough University through reduced accommodation costs made available to young researchers. RH was thanked for achieving this. In general, the number of young researchers attending the meeting has been

increasing but future organisers were encouraged to continue to think creatively about how costs can be subsidised to attract attendees in their early careers.

4. Future British Branch meetings.

- a. The venue of the 2014 meeting was confirmed by Martin Siegert as being the University of Bristol. Bristol will also be hosting the 2014 NCAR meeting on Antarctic research hence are well placed to avoid a clash.

> **ACTION** ECK requested that Bristol organisers supply a contact name to IGSBB to aid liaison between Bristol and IGSBB in the organisation of next year's meeting. The first act that then needs to happen is for the Bristol contact to confirm to IGSBB (c/o ECK and MMM) the dates for next year's meeting.

- b.i. At the 2012 meeting Southampton had been offered as a potential venue for the 2014 meeting contingent upon confirmation at this year's AGM. With no representative from Southampton present at the 2013 AGM to confirm this offer, Durham made an alternate offer to host the meeting and this was provisionally agreed upon by the meeting as an alternative venue. Its 'northern' situation, compared with Bristol's location the previous year, would maintain the IGS tradition of keeping the geographical spread of the meeting wide year-on-year.

NB) Following the meeting JLW confirmed Jane Hart had confirmed Southampton would still be happy to host the 2015 meeting, and CRS clarified that Durham had offered to host in 2015 in the absence of this information. The committee agreed to discuss this with both parties prior to the 2014 AGM and decide on the final venue at that year's AGM.

- b.ii. MMM raised the issue that in late-summer 2015 there will also be a big international IGS symposium hosted in Cambridge on the topic of Contemporary Ice-Sheet Dynamics: ocean interaction, meltwater and non-linear effects. The meeting agreed that such a meeting should not *replace* IGSBB, but that arrangements would need to be made to make the 2015 IGSBB complementary.

> **ACTION** (as a marker for the 2014 IGSBB meeting) Final decision to be reached on whether IGSBB 2015 occurs in Southampton or Durham. Southampton/Durham organisers to consider dates/strategy that work in tandem with the Cambridge IGS symposium as well as 2015 NCAR Arctic meeting.

- c. Future venues for the meeting beyond 2015/6 were discussed. Exeter, Leeds, Northumberland and York were all enthusiastically volunteered.
- d. The timing of the meeting (in the last few years, the first week of September) was discussed, in the context that some universities are moving start-of-term to the beginning of September. The meeting agreed that with glaciological field commitments and other meetings around this time, maintaining early September remains the best timing for the meeting.
- e. MMM noted the absence of many senior glacial researchers from this year's meeting, and asked what could be done to encourage senior researchers to keep supporting the meeting, in the context that many are not attending perhaps due to increased busyness?

> **ACTION** IGS British Branch to consider composing a letter to send around to senior researchers noting the importance of this meeting e.g. in networking between all career stages in our subject.

5. Election of Officers

- a. A copy of original statutes of the IGS British Branch was brought to the meeting by John Glen. Election of officers in recent years has mostly followed the original statutes, which are restated here as follows:
After each 2-year term in office, normal practice is that:

- i. The President continues on the committee for the next 2-years as “Ex-President” and continues to be consulted re IGSBB affairs.
 - ii. The Vice-President assumes the role of President *ex officio*.
 - iii. A new Vice-President is elected.
 - iv. The roles of Treasurer and Secretary are renewed by the incumbents or new parties as the AGM agrees.
- b. Following 5a above, ECK was elected as President for the following 2-year term, effective from the meeting. ECK thanked JLW for her service to IGSBB, and JLW now remains on the Committee as Ex-President.
 - c. The Committee proposed Chris Stokes (CRS) for VP. The motion was proposed by RGB, seconded by RH, and carried by the meeting.
 - d. RGB was re-elected to continue as Secretary, while RH will continue as Treasurer.

> **ACTION** The new committee of IGSBB from 2013 to 2015 needs to be updated on the new IGSBB webpages.

6. AOB
None.

7. IGS Head Office report (MMM)

- a. MMM reported that in general it has been a good year for IGS, noting that over 900 members had joined and new members are still coming in. The year’s financial results have been the best results for a very long time. However, the Society needs to look ahead to a new era in which less income is going to be generated (see below).
- b. *Journal of Glaciology* is now receiving just under 200 submissions per year, while submissions to *Annals of Glaciology* fluctuate more due to their associations with symposia on different topics.
- c. MMM noted that the big issue looking ahead is how to manage the issue of Open Access to journals. This will have a considerable effect on the IGS business model through its potential to lose the IGS many institutional subscribers. These subscribers have subsidised many activities of IGS in the past and the three main activities that make up the agenda of the IGS – membership, publications and symposia – will all be affected by this loss of subsidy.
- d. MMM discussed the strategies IGS is considering to offset its potential loss of income in future. Most likely is the eventual cessation of printing hardcopies of its publications, *Journal of Glaciology* and *Annals of Glaciology*, which would save both on printing and mailing costs. Currently being considered is the AGU model of running off a few hardcopies to be made available at a premium price.
- e. A further cost-saving measure will be the implementation of full page charges for both *Journal of Glaciology* and *Annals of Glaciology*. This started for *Journal of Glaciology* at the beginning of 2013, and the previous model of providing 4 free pages for *Annals of Glaciology* to symposium attendees will be discontinued.
- f. IGS Council at the recent IGS Symposium in Beijing adopted the policy of imposing a fixed-price charge for Open Access, to allow publishing in *Journal of Glaciology* re NERC policy (i.e. research funded by NERC now must be published in Open Access repositories). MMM noted that the business model for IGS concerning Open Access is still under the process of development.
- g. MMM noted forthcoming IGS international symposia for the next 2-3 years, details of which can be learnt by visiting <http://www.igsoc.org/symposia/>.
- h. MMM repeated the message that it continues to be important for glaciologists to join the IGS, and for the community to continue to support the Society as much as possible.

Meeting closed at 14:20.