

International Glaciological Society British Branch

Minutes from 2015 Annual General Meeting

Department of Geography, Durham University, 3rd September 2015

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| President: | Edward King (ECK) |
| Vice-President: | Chris Stokes (CRS, Chair) |
| Secretary: | Robert Bingham (RGB) |
| Treasurer: | Nick Rutter (NJR) |
| IGS Head Office: | Magnús Magnusson (MMM) |
| Ex-President: | Jemma Wadham (JLW) |

Meeting commenced 13:30.

1. ECK and JLW sent apologies. In ECK's absence, CRS chaired the AGM. CRS opened the meeting by reminding members of the composition of the IGSBB committee, positions as noted above. This was relevant to the election of new officers, the main business of this year's AGM.
2. Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record, with all matters arising there having been considered dealt with.
3. Treasurer's report.
 - a. NJR reported negligible change in the IGSBB account from the previous year's balance. The current balance is £2,987.06.
 - b. In the previous year's meeting, an action for the Treasurer was to change signatories on the IGSBB account to reflect the current composition of the committee. In investigating how to make this change, NJR discovered that the IGSBB account (with NatWest) no longer had the capability of issuing cheques. To address this, NJR is in the process of changing the account with NatWest such that signatories will be able to make online payments and issue cheques. The expected use of such funds is payment of the John Glen Prize to the two winners each year.
 - c. CRS reminded members that the main purpose of the account is for contingency, especially if institutions hosting the annual meeting in September unexpectedly run the meeting at a loss (c.f. more details from Treasurer's Report 2013). This policy is open to review at any time and suggestions for a different use were invited. CRS suggested one use of funds might be to support Early Career Scientist attendance at the IGSBB or related meetings.
 - d. It was noted that the 2014 IGSBB meeting at Bristol potentially ran at a small profit.

> **ACTION** NJR to finalise process of changing IGSBB account.

> **ACTION** CRS/NJR to liaise with Bristol IGSBB organisers about whether some of the meeting profit might be donated for future meetings of the IGSBB.

4. Future British Branch meetings.
 - a. Next year's (2016) meeting will be hosted by the University of Southampton. Prof. Jane Hart (host) has proposed the dates of Thurs 8th – Fri 9th September 2016 for the meeting. RGB noted that the IGSBB has traditionally avoided Fridays so as to avoid expensive travel for participants. Members of the room also noted potential clashes with the Karthaus Summer School and British Society for Geomorphology meetings, traditionally run at similar times of year.

- b. Further meeting venues were discussed. CRS noted the increasing keenness of multiple institutions to use future meetings, and thanked all for their offers. CRS proposed for manageability that this AGM only look 2-3 years ahead, and that the existing system of broadly alternating between “northern/southern” UK venues be retained; but invited comments. Comments from the floor were as follows: (i) Matteo Spagnolo suggested a voting system may have to be introduced in the event of competing offers; (ii) Andy Smith suggested the existing system of looking 2-3 years ahead generally still works well; (iii) Bryn Hubbard suggested the “northern/southern” condition be relaxed or treated as relatively low priority. The meeting agreed on this occasion to stick with looking just 2-3 years ahead.
- c. Following the order of existing offers, the meeting approved Lancaster (Amber Leeson, who previously had represented Leeds; see 2014 minutes) as hosts in 2017 and Exeter (Anne Le Brocq) as hosts in 2018.
- c. Amber Leeson raised the issue of potential to combine future IGSBB meetings with the annual NCAR Arctic/Antarctic meetings which have now run for a number of years also in September, as occurred with the 2014 Bristol meeting. There were mixed feelings on this as a general strategy. MMM proposed the IGSBB and meeting organisers should consider each year on a case-by-case basis.

> **ACTION** CRS to follow up arrangements with Jane Hart / Southampton on timing of 2016 IGSBB Meeting.

- 5. a. CRS reminded the meeting that the IGSBB has long-running statutes on its committee composition, 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, CRS was elected as President for the following 2-year term, effective from the meeting. CRS thanked ECK for his service to IGSBB, and ECK now remains on the Committee as Ex-President.
- c. RGB was proposed as VP; proposed by David Rippin, seconded by Stewart Jamieson, and was duly elected effective from the meeting.
- d. Anne Le Brocq was proposed as Secretary; proposed by Nick Rutter, seconded by Pippa Whitehouse, and was duly elected effective from the meeting.
- e. Nick Rutter agreed to continue as Treasurer; the meeting agreed.
- e. CRS urged all members of the IGSBB to consider themselves for future election, and suggested the IGSBB statutes be placed on the IGSBB website such that members can have more warning about the potential to be elected into office.

> **ACTION** CRS to follow up possibility of placing IGSBB statutes on IGSBB website.

> **ACTION** MMM to update IGSBB website to reflect new committee composition.

- 6. IGS Head Office report (MMM)
 - a. IGS is in advanced discussions with Cambridge University Press about transferring the production and distribution of *Journal* and *Annals of Glaciology*. This will have large ramifications for the future operations of IGS. Financially the society is secure with sufficient resource to maintain operations, but due to a future lack of income from subscribing institutions there will have to be a streamlining of IGS operations. It is likely that the current office will be closed down and a smaller premises found. This will remain in Cambridge as stipulated in the IGS constitution.

- b. The *Journal of Glaciology* Chief Editor Jo Jacka is stepping down from his post at the end of 2015. He will continue to take on papers till the end of 2015 and see those papers through until they are accepted or rejected. IGS is currently seeking a new editor or perhaps team of editors to replace Jo, and is inviting volunteers to step forward. MMM invited comments/suggestions to be made to him about good people who could do all or part of this job.
- c. MMM noted that during the transition of journal production/distribution to Cambridge University Press the IGS will be particularly relying on its members for continued support. The intention is for *Journal* and *Annals of Glaciology* to offer Open Access at competitive rates from 1 January 2016.
- d. Forthcoming IGS international symposia are booked until 2020. These include July 2016 (Scripps, California on Ice-Ocean interactions) and potentially a 2016 meeting on Applied Glaciology in Newfoundland; 2017 meeting in New Zealand co-hosted by IACS/CLIC; 2018 symposia in Japan, Sweden and Belgium; and a 2020 Sea-Ice meeting in Winnipeg, Canada.
- e. MMM also noted that during the summer's IGS Symposium in Cambridge, he was approached by 3 institutions about potentially hosting a future IGS International Symposium. He encouraged all to make offers early so that clashes with other meetings can be avoided.
- f. MMM noted that there will shortly be an opportunity for IGS members to express their views on the future direction of IGS, especially in a future where *Journal/Annals* are being handled commercially. In response to a question from Ian Evans, MMM clarified that the main reason for the change of publication strategy has been the loss of institutional subscriptions the society has faced in recent years, and it was thus unavoidable.

7. AOB
None.

Meeting closed at 14:15.