

# INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

8 September 2005, Ningwozhuang Hotel, Lanzhou, China

The President, Dr Elizabeth Morris, was in the Chair.  
20 members from 10 countries were present.

1. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, published in the ICE, 2003, No 135, p. 8–11, were approved on a motion by T.H. Jacka, seconded by F. Ng and signed by the President.

2. The President gave the following report for 2004-2005:

Ladies and gentlemen,

This is my last report as President and I am pleased to say that after a period of change and difficulty I believe the Society is now in a strong position to move forward and expand its activities. Last year I reported in detail on the program to modernise the equipment and software in the IGS office and overhaul all the electronic production procedures. There have also been staff changes which have brought new skills to our production team.

The staff in the office now numbers 6 people. The Secretary-General, Magnús Már Magnússon and Linda Gorman work full time. The Production Manager, Christine Butler, works 20 hours a week and her production assistant Craig Baxter works 15 hours a week. Ali Woollatt works 20 hours per week doing typesetting and page makeup as well as working on the development and maintenance of our 3B2 typesetting program. Ann Leeding works for 5 hours per week. This is the equivalent of approximately one and a half full time positions in production. With this staffing level we are now doing all the work involved in making a volume ready for printing including page makeup, proofing and artwork which used to be done by our printers.

Our main goal over the last year has been to speed up the publication of the *Journal* and the *Annals*. I am pleased to say that since the last Council meeting, we have published five issues of the *Journal of Glaciology*: that is 4 issues of Vol. 50 for 2004 and the first issue of volume 51. Furthermore the second issue of Vol.51 is being typeset and papers destined for the third issue are being copy edited. This means that by the end of 2005 we will have published 3 of the 4 issues of the 2005 volume. Thus we are almost up to date. Furthermore, the papers we are publishing in 2005 were submitted in 2005, so we have brought the time from submission to publication down to less than a year.

However, the Chief Editor has reported a decrease in the number of papers being submitted to the *Journal of Glaciology* so we do need to think of ways to publicize the fact that papers are being processed much faster now.

*Annals* 38 which contains the proceedings of the Davos Symposium held in June 2003 was issued in March 2005. *Annals* 39 which contains the proceedings of the Milan symposium held in August 2003 was mailed out in August 2005 and is the first IGS publication in the new style. It is the second largest IGS publication ever. Although *Annals* 39 took much too long to reach our readers it is worth considering that it only took 8 months to produce, compared to the 12 months it took to produce *Annals* 38, which was done entirely in the old way. The editorial and production teams are now working on volumes 40, 41 and 42 of the *Annals* and hope to issue all of these within the next 6 months.

With regard to the meeting being held here in Lanzhou, the Society would like to commend the local committee and the editors Ellen Mosley-Thompson and Lonnie Thomson and their team for their hard work and excellent organization. Most of the papers should be in Cambridge by the beginning of December for publication in 2006 that is within a year.

So to sum up, I believe we can now say that our team in Cambridge can provide a fast and efficient production service. We must now turn our attention to reducing the remaining sources of delay in the publication process. The time from submission to acceptance is the responsibility of the Chief Scientific Editor and the Editorial Board and last but definitely not least the authors themselves. Council have been discussing ways to encourage authors to respond rapidly to requests from the editors and we believe that an electronic tracking system will help in this regard.

Our second main goal has been to improve management of the IGS finances. Last year the Office began to use a new accounting software package, SAGE. Each expenditure, including staff time, can be assigned to a given task, for example producing a given *Annals* or *Journal* volume. By the end of this financial year we will be able to provide accurate costs for all the Societies present activities and, more importantly, estimate costs for proposed new activities. Furthermore, we will have a rational and easy to follow accounting system which will allow Council to have a clear view of the Societies finances when making strategic decisions.

Members may already have noticed that the Society's website has been redesigned. Web publication of new publications is running smoothly and we have now added older issues of the *Journal*, from issue 152 onwards and *Annals* volumes back to Volume 33. We are investigating the possibility of going back even further. We need to make sure that all members are aware that they can download papers at no cost. To subscribe, members should email the office ([igsoc@igsoc.org](mailto:igsoc@igsoc.org))

We have also fully implemented the online abstract submission system that was first introduced at the Portland Symposium last year. It is now a modular system that can easily be adapted for any symposium. The next logical step is to move towards an online paper submission and review system. This is a task that the publication committee is looking into, along with the newly formed Electronic Communications task force.

Planning is well under way for two meetings in 2006. Garry Clarke has agreed to be Chief Scientific Editor of the Iceland Symposium assisted by John Smellie, and Martin Sharp for the Cambridge meeting. The second circulars should be out before the end of the year. No symposia have been finalized for 2007 but we have agreed to co-sponsor the first meeting of the Commission for Cryospheric Sciences which will take place as part of the IUGG Assembly in Perugia. This is an historic occasion as it will mark the transition of the International Commission on Snow and Ice to full association status within the international scientific union system. The Society wishes to give its full support to this important step forward and has offered the services of the production team for publication of symposium proceedings.

Finally, I have the very pleasant task of announcing that Council has recommended that the Seligman Crystal should be awarded to Professor Richard Alley of Pennsylvania State University for his prodigious contribution to our understanding of the stability of the ice sheets and glaciers of Greenland and Antarctica and of erosion and sedimentation by this moving ice. Through the interpretation of paleoclimatic records from ice cores, Richard has examined the response of these ice sheets to past and future climate change. He has

provided evidence that large, abrupt global climate changes have occurred repeatedly in the Earth's history and has contributed to our understanding of the driving mechanisms of these changes. I believe Richard will choose to receive his award at the Cambridge symposium next year but I am sure you would like to congratulate him here.

The Secretary General invited members to discuss the President's report.

R. Braithwaite proposed, and H. Jay Zwally seconded, that the President's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

3. The Secretary General, on behalf of the treasurer, Dr. J.A. Heap, presented the following reported with the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004.

"The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004 reflect the implementation of our new accounting procedures brought in by the SAGE accounting software. You will see substantial changes between the previous statements and the present one. This is due to the adoption of "departments" or "projects" for all activities of the IGS. Also from now on, expenditure and income will be reflected in the year it was incurred. In the past such specific expenditures and income were reflected in the year the relevant Volume of either the *Journal* or the *Annals* was due to be published, not the actual year in which the expenditures and incomes were incurred.

The state of the Society's finances is however, best summarised by considering the changes from 31 December 2003 to 31 December 2004 in the following funds, as shown on page 13 of the accounts:

Seligman Fund: increased from £7392 to £7642 as a consequence of accrued interest of £250;

Contingencies Fund: maintained at the same level of £12,684;

Annals Fund: decreased from £78,952 to £67,158 as a result of funds set against transfer of expenditure and accrued interest;

Publications Fund: decreased from £25,443 to £21,242, as a consequence of expenditures set against sales, royalties and interest accrual;

Future Volumes: increased from £33,976 to £51,380 reflecting delayed publication of *Annals* 38 and 39 and the resulting saving in printing costs and lack of page charge payments;

Accumulated Fund: increased from £377,445 to £397,076 consequent upon a gain in that account for the year of £19631; this included a profit of £1917 in the value of investments due to an adjustment to market value (page 12, note 7). Income from memberships increased by £6580 and library sales were down by £346 and that from page charges were down from last year by £28,690. This is a considerable decrease from the previous year due to the fact that we only published 3 *Journal* issues and only one *Annals* volume. For the same reason we saw a reduction of printing and publication costs of £87,400. In the 2004 Financial Statement we have only incurred the printing costs for one issue of the *Journal*. This amount also reflects the change in accounting practices we have adopted as described at the beginning of this report. In 2004 we also received the remainder of the legacy from Loris Seligman and a legacy from Henri Bader, in all totalling £25,605. We also incurred substantial cost in the year due to putting back issues of the *Journal* and the *Annals* on the web and development and software costs due to the reorganizing of our production procedures.

In 2004, the Society published 444 pages in the *Journal of Glaciology* and 416 pages in the *Annals of Glaciology*. In 2003 the figures were 618 for the *Journal* and 716 for the *Annals*, a year with two issues of the *Annals*. This of course is a reflection of the reorganization of our production procedures. As the President has indicated in her report we are beginning to catch up and as of this week we have already published 475 pages of the *Journal* this year and we are expecting to double that number by the end of it. In addition we have already published over a thousand pages of the *Annals* and are planning to publish another 350 pages this year. This will of course be reflected in both page charges received and printing costs although the latter will be less than previous years due to the fact that we are handling all the artwork and page makeup in-house now and only the actual printing is out-sourced.

May I say how particularly grateful we are to all those authors who have been both able and willing to support the Society by the provision of page charges.

May I, again, make a plea to members of the Society to do all in their power to increase the membership. Although we are continuing to receive new memberships these are now balanced by those retiring or moving to other fields. Our target is a base of at least 1000 and there is still some way to go. Please encourage your colleagues and students to join. I believe they will find it is extremely good value for money. Also, please ensure that libraries in any institutions over which you have influence either maintain their subscriptions or take one out.

John A. Heap, Treasurer"

T.H. Jacka proposed, and R. Braithwaite seconded, that the Treasurer's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

#### 4. Election of auditors for 2003 accounts.

On a motion from the Secretary General, R. Braithwaite proposed, and T.H. Jacka seconded, that Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore of Cambridge be elected auditors for the 2005 accounts. This was carried unanimously.

5. Elections to Council. After circulation to members of the Society of the Council's suggested list of nominees for 2005–2008, no further nominations were received, and the following members were therefore elected unanimously.

Presidents: Atsumu Ohmura

Vice-Presidents: I. Allison  
E. Wolff

Elective Members(4): Richard Hindmarsh  
Waleed Abdalati  
Atsushi Sato  
Gwenn Flowers

These appointments were unanimously approved by the AGM.

The outgoing President E.M. Morris handed over the meeting over to the incoming President A. Ohmura.

The President thanked the immediate past President for her valuable contribution during her term of office.

#### 6. The Societies Constitution:

The President reminded the AGM that ballot papers had been sent to all members of the Society asking whether the Society's Constitution dated October 1992 was in the view of members the version of the Constitution currently in force.

159 properly completed ballot papers were returned to the Society's offices. All of them confirmed that the Society's Constitution dated October 1992 was the version of the Constitution currently in force. The outcome of the ballot is hereby recorded in the minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting.

The President thanked members for responding to the ballot request.

#### 7. Other business

The President announce that it was his pleasure to announce to the AGM that at the Council meeting on 5 September 2005, Council approved unanimously a motion by the President, following the recommendation of our Awards Committee, to award the Seligman Crystal to Professor Richard Alley. The citation noted the prodigious contribution made by Professor Alley to our understanding of the ice sheets and glaciers of Antarctica and Greenland and of erosion and sedimentation by this moving ice. Through the interpretation of paleoclimatic records from ice cores he has examined their response to past and future climatic change. He has provided evidence that large, abrupt global climate changes have occurred repeatedly in the Earth's history and has contributed to our understanding of the driving mechanisms of these changes.

The AGM discussed the various ways the Society could attract more members and more paper submissions to *Journal of Glaciology*.

The AGM was adjourned on a motion from A. Rivera, seconded by H. Jay Zwally.