

INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Thursday 30 July at 13:40, Room 002 in the Newcastle Business School and School of Law Building, Manor Buildings,
City Campus East, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK..

The President, Dr Eric Brun, was in the Chair.

34 persons from 10 countries were present of which 30 were IGS members.

1. The previous AGM's minutes

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, published in ICE, 2008, No 147–148, p. 17–20, were approved on a motion by D. Drewry, seconded by F. Pattyn and signed by the President.

2. The President's report

The President gave the following report for 2008–2009:

Dear members, Ladies and Gentlemen

The International Glaciological Society has completed its 73rd year. It's a great honour for me to chair for the first time an Annual General Meeting and present a report on the Society's activities and status for the past year.

I have the pleasure of starting this report by highlighting the increasing success of the Journal of Glaciology. For a few years now, we have experienced an important increase in the number of submitted and published papers.

In order to alleviate some of the build-up of accepted papers, it was decided to publish a fifth issue in 2008. Taking into account this trend, Council decided to move up to six issues per year. In spite of this 50% increase in publications, we have maintained our prompt publication of the Journal, while preserving its very high quality.

At the present time, the first 4 issues of 2009 have been published and the fifth issue is well advanced.

There are many reasons for such success: the reduction in the time between the submission and the publication of papers; the rapid online access to the Journal and the systematic announcement of new issues via the Cryolist; the increasing worldwide attention paid to the interactions between cryosphere and climate and the increasing reputation of the Journal of Glaciology, which was awarded the 2007 ALPSP Best Scientific Journal prize. On behalf of all IGS members, I would like to express my warmest thanks to those who have built this success: the Chief Editor, the Editorial Board and the Publications Committee, the Secretary General, the Production Manager and the IGS Staff in Cambridge. The challenge remains to ensure that the Society's publications, especially the Journal, are seen as the BEST place to publish.

Additionally, the online submission of papers should be implemented within the next few months.

Volume 50 of the Annals is also well on track. We are due to publish 4 issues in 2009 and we have now published 3 of those, Annals 50(50), 50(51) and 50(52). Annals 50(53) is close to completion as well. Volume 51 will start very soon. Undoubtedly, the production of the Annals profits by the modernization of the publication processes, too. However, there are still

some uncertainties on the outcome of the new Annals editorial policy. We have now submitted the first two issues to Thompson ISI with the request to introduce it into the Science Citation Index.

For several years now, our Secretary General has modernized the administrative, production and management systems. A new stage has begun in 2009 with the purchase and implementation of a new Membership Management software. It is clear that will substantially help in the running of the Society and simplify many tasks within the office. In his report, the Membership Manager has highlighted the benefits to be expected from the modernization of membership management. I will come back later to the important issue of Membership.

Staff issues

The SG has informed Council of the staffing changes that have taken place during the past year. Including people hired on a temporary basis to help with the management software and get the membership in order, the present IGS staff amounts to approximately two full time positions in production, two positions in administration and one and a half positions in membership/subscriptions.

To spread the load and maintain the flow of Journal and Annals papers, the IGS office has also a team of freelance copy editors who specialise in maths and/or TeX editing.

I got the chance to visit the IGS headquarters last October in Cambridge and I share the opinion of the Secretary General, who considers that his team is functioning well and that the morale of the staff is high and enthusiastic.

The organization of Symposia remains a very important activity for our Society.

The IGS sponsored the Limerick symposium on 'Dynamics in Glaciology' in August 2008. In all we received 75 abstracts. The symposium was very interesting and enjoyable. Andrew Fowler acted as the Chief Editor and the chairman of the LOC. A group of 15 participants went on a post-symposium tour of western Ireland.

The first IGS symposium to be held in India took place in April 2009. The 'International Symposium on Snow and Avalanches' was much enjoyed by all participants. In all we had 175 participants, 40 of whom were foreigners. The local organization was superb and we are hoping to be able to have another symposium in India before too long. We are now anxiously waiting for papers to be accepted so we can start publishing Annals volume 51. Perry Bartelt and Jürg Schweizer are the Chief Editors.

The present 'International Symposium on Glaciology in the International Polar Year' at the University of Northumbria has been going very well with John Woodward as head of the LOC and Hilmar Gudmundsson as the Chief Editor. Both of them have done a splendid job and we have enjoyed very interesting sessions. The only snag we encountered was that the online registration only worked intermittently. But the 'Event Manager module' itself of our new membership software has worked very well and will only get better and make things much easier for future symposia.

The first circulars for the 'International Symposia on Sea Ice in the Physical and Biochemical System' (Tromsø, May–June 2010), 'Snow Ice and Humanity in a Changing Climate' (Sapporo, June 2010) and 'Earth's Disappearing Ice; Drivers, Responses and Impacts' (Ohio, August 2010) have been posted on the web and will be sent out with ICE 149, due to be mailed out this week.

In addition we are working on symposia in San Diego (2011), Helsinki (2012), Alaska (2012), Australia (2013) and Alberta, Canada (2013–14). There is even a rumour of the next Sea Ice

Symposium taking place in Australia in 2015. Other possibilities are a symposium in Argentina in 2011 and an Ice Core Science meeting in 2011 or 2012.

The Council discussed the treasurer's report and examined the IGS accounts. The Society's finances are still in fairly good shape but there is still room for improvement in the way the Society operates. We ran a slight profit in 2008 (around £1000) which is smaller than in 2007 and 2006. It is important for the IGS to maintain our income as well as operate carefully and efficiently to minimize our costs.

Council and the SG are particularly concerned by the decrease in the IGS membership, which began several years ago. It's partially due to the lack of traceability regarding subscription payments. The new membership management software should considerably help on that aspect and 2009 should be better than 2008. Nevertheless, Council is very concerned about the situation and has appointed a task force to study the present situation and propose different options to recover our waning membership.

Awards

And finally I would like to end this report by announcing that Council decided to award Paul Andrew Mayewski a Seligman Crystal for his outstanding contribution to glaciology.

Paul Andrew Mayewski is a world leader in the use of ice core records to document climate change. He has been leader of more than 50 expeditions to remote regions such as: Antarctica, the Arctic, Himalayas, Tibetan Plateau, Tierra del Fuego. He has been a keynote speaker at more than 300 events, and has enjoyed extensive media coverage, including a popular climate change book (The Ice Chronicles, with F. White). He has over 150 highly collaborative publications in refereed journals, with over 6,500 citations. His honours include

- Medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research;
- Honorary Doctorate, Stockholm University;
- Fellow, American Geophysical Union;
- Fellow, American Society for the Advancement of Science.

Thanks for your attention

Eric Brun

IGS President 30 July 2009

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

Frank Pattyn asked what measures might be taken to increase membership in future. The President outlined past IGS office inefficiencies and explained these problems had now been eradicated; he also outlined new proposals to change/reduce membership fees, which are currently under consideration. Increasing the membership is his main aim during his Presidency. The SG asked all members present to encourage younger or student colleagues to join the society.

Jo Jacka asked when Paul Mayewski would be awarded the Seligman Crystal; this will be announced shortly.

R. Mottram proposed, and R. Hock seconded, that the President's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

3. The Treasurer's report

The Secretary General, on behalf of the treasurer Dr I.C. Willis, presented the following report with the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2008.

The state of the Society's finances is best summarized by considering the changes from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008, as shown on page 10 of the accounts. In the table, the Restricted Fund is money earmarked specifically for costs associated with the Seligman Crystal. The Unrestricted Funds is everything else. [Note that in previous years' accounts, this was further divided in this summary table into Accumulated Fund (associated with running the Journal) and Designated Fund (associated with running Symposia and the Annals) but these have been amalgamated in this year's summary table although they are separated in the detailed notes below].

Restricted Funds: increased very slightly from £8245 to £8993 as a consequence of a donation and accrued interest of £969, offset against the cost of manufacturing a Seligman crystal of £221.

Unrestricted Funds: decreased slightly by £5,585 from £571,834 to £566,249 showing that the income to IGS largely from membership, sales of the Journal and Annals, page charges and symposia attendance roughly matched expenditure associated with Journal and Annals printing and publication, and associated office support, and office support for activities related to running Symposia.

Total: The Society made a slight loss of £4,837 in 2008 compared to a net profit of £11,327 in 2007 and a profit of £29,799 in 2006

In more detail, income is itemized in notes 2–5, pages 13–15 and expenditure is listed in notes 6–9, pages 16 & 17.

Income:

Note 2. Voluntary income dropped from £4,385 to £1,931 despite a small increase in donations due to a decrease in royalties.

Note 3. Investment income increased from £11,750 to £29,986 due to the transfer of monies from an old low interest account into a new higher interest account. We can expect this to reduce significantly next year as interest rates have come down substantially.

Note 5. Here, Accumulated Fund is associated with Journal activity, Designated Fund with Annals and Symposia.

Membership dues increased significantly compared with 2007 from £16,741 to £48,080. This is largely thanks to the efforts of Trevor Margerson who was employed part-time during the year to improve the membership database and chase up members who had not paid their dues (often through no fault of their own but because of poor membership invoicing procedures in previous years). Thank you to members who responded positively to Trevor's e-mails.

Journal sales were down slightly by £12,456 (2007–8) compared to a drop of £11,413 (2006–7) and a rise of £15,753 the year before (2005–6). Sales of Journal reprints by authors who do not pay page charges rose slightly this year by £127 to £225. This is still a small income reflecting authors choosing not to receive reprints (presumably because of the rise of the pdf). Page charge income increased by £21,695 (2007–8) compared to a drop of £18,659 (2006–7). As with membership dues above, this partly reflects improvement in the processing of invoices compared to last year but also reflects increased income associated with the Journal moving from 4 to 5 volumes per year.

Income from sales of Annals is healthy. The constant income of £5732 against Annals 50(51), (52) and (53) reflects the fact that we are now offering Annals as a complete subscription and that the past few Annals are of very similar size. This is also a part of our effort to convince Thomson ISI that the Annals is a scientific journal that you subscribe to rather than a book series. Income from page charges for Annals (i.e. Volumes 47–49) is typically less than in the previous year (i.e. Volumes 44–46) because volumes 44–46 were big (1114pp in total versus 47–49 (576pp)).

Expenditure:

Notes 6 & 7. Here, the Designated Fund is further divided into ‘Annals’, ‘Publications’ and ‘Future Annals Volumes’, although the distinction is rather meaningless since there is hardly anything within the first two categories.

Note 6. The direct costs associated with editing, printing, publishing and distributing the Journal and Annals decreased by £9,513 (2007–8) compared to a decrease of £34,860 (2006–7) and a decrease of £12,269 (2005–6). This reflects largely the reduced printing costs compared to previous years. Proof reading and editorial costs have increased compared to last year, reflecting the greater number of articles published.

Note 7. The support costs associated with Journal, Annals and Symposia activity have increased substantially by £77,793 from £155,164 in 2007 to £232,957 in 2008. The big hikes are associated with: (1) Office rental, but this is the first such increase for 5 years; (2) Symposia; and (3) wages and salaries. Symposia costs are higher because we in fact only organized one symposium in 2007 (Moscow) whereas in 2008 we organized two. In addition, income from the 2007 Moscow symposium did not materialize in 2008 as expected. Hopefully it will in 2009. Further, Council decided to separate the finances of symposia and the Annals, with income relating to the Annals, which in previous years has offset the cost of the symposia, not taken into account when symposia finances are considered. This is in line with the separation of Annals and symposia in the ongoing effort to have the Annals reintroduced into the Thomson ISI. The increase in wages and salaries is primarily due to hiring of staff to clean up existing data and implement the new membership database system. The other big increase in this section is associated with writing off bad debts, to the tune of £25,063. As mentioned above, the society is making progress in obtaining income from aged debtors but we have taken the decision to write off around £19,000 of bad debts that date back beyond the introduction of the new SAGE accounting software in 2004. The remaining £6,000 or so of written off bad debts is actually an accounting anomaly and represents money that the society received from aged debtors that was counted as income for the 2008 financial year rather than a credit against

carried forward debts. As note 16 on p. 20 shows, the total debts for the year amounts to £110,481 and this should remain a concern to the society. The introduction of a new membership management system integrated with the accounting software this year should hopefully reduce this problem in future years. Meanwhile, continued effort must be made to chase up bad debts, some of which extend back to 2004.

Note 7. Governance costs associated with running the Society as a Charity have remained stable.

Summary

The Society's finances are still in fairly good shape but there is still room for improvement in the way the Society operates. We ran a small deficit in 2008 (< 1% of total funds) compared to a small profit in 2007 (~2% of total funds) and a bigger profit in 2006 (~5.5% of total funds). It is important for us to maintain our inputs as well as operate carefully and efficiently to minimize our costs.

On the outputs side, we are continuing to benefit from reductions in the cost of printing the Journal and Annals. However, we must ensure that the increased expenditure in wages associated with producing more volumes of the Journal in particular is offset against increased income from page charges and sales to libraries. Priority must be given to continue to chase up aged debtors, although things are improving on this front. As Note 16 shows, debtors in 2008 owed the Society £110,481, down from £126,212 in 2007 (and £162,755 in 2006). Magnus is to be congratulated on improving these figures and encouraged and supported to go further. The new management database and online payment system for members / libraries / agents is gradually being implemented and should be fully functional by the end of 2009. This should help considerably reducing the number of debtors in any one year and will hopefully avoid us having to write off tens of thousands of pounds worth of debt in the future.

On the input side, the apparent drop in revenue from libraries etc. for the Journal and for Annals should be of some cause for concern. Similarly, we should be aiming to increase membership still further. Increased income from page charges is to be welcomed and we should remain grateful for authors who are able to support the Society in this way. But it would be good to see an increase in library etc. subscriptions to the publications so that page charges to authors might be able to be lowered in future.

Ian C. Willis, Treasurer

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

J. Detterman commented on membership dues not collected by IGS and asked to pay by direct debit in future. MMM explained the new procedures in place to avoid this problem happening again and said direct debit payments would be possible in future under the new membership system.

T.H. Jacka proposed, and C. Bentley seconded, that the Treasurer's report and the draft accounts be accepted and he, the President and the Secretary General be authorized to sign off the accounts on behalf of Council. This was carried unanimously.

4. Election of auditors for 2009 accounts

The Secretary General proposed that the Society retain the same auditors as previous years as the 2009 accounts will be complicated because of the dual bookkeeping due to the new membership software. The present auditors are familiar with the accounts of the Society which would minimize the effort needed to complete the 2009 audit.

On a motion from the Secretary General, R. Bindschadler and I. Evans seconded, that Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore of Cambridge be elected auditors for the 2009 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 2009–2012, no further nominations were received, and the following members were therefore elected unanimously.

Vice Presidents: Christina Hulbe (US)

Treasurer: Ian C Willis (UK)

Elective Members:

Gwenn Flowers (Canada)
Jacqueline A. Richter-Menge (US)
Rob Massom (Australia)
Werner F Kuhs (Germany)

The appointment of the new IGS officers and Council members was confirmed by the AGM.

6. Other business

There was a general discussion about donating IGS back issues to worthy recipients in, for example, small institutes and 3rd world countries.

N. Glasser asked about the online submission system and the timescale was discussed.

The AGM was adjourned 14:45 on a motion from F. Pattyn seconded by T.H. Jacka.