

INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

9 June 2011, Scripps Seaside Forum, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, USA

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

51 persons attended of which 42 members from 16 countries were present.

1. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, published in the ICE, 2010, No 154, p. 19–23, were approved on a motion by O. Sergienko and seconded by T.H. Jacka and signed by the President.

2. The President gave the following report for 2010-2011:

Dear members, Ladies and Gentlemen

The International Glaciological Society has completed its 75th year. At the term of my 3-year mandate as IGS President, it's an immense pleasure for me to present the report on the Society's activities for the past year.

I will start this report with an outlook of our publication activities.

The last years have been marked by continuous progresses in that field. Once again, 2010 has been a record in terms of submitted and published papers. We published 6 issues of the Journal of Glaciology, including the special Issue 200. It represents 1172 pages in all. It must be noted that it has been achieved while maintaining and even enhancing the quality of our publications. Indeed, the rate of acceptance is now 49%, compared to 51% in 2009, 66% in 2008 and 58% in 2007. Such a quality is the best warranty for the future of the Journal of Glaciology.

And 2011 looks like it will be a substantial volume, as well.

The online submission system for the Journal is now working well. It has greatly simplified the tasks of the IGS Chief Editor and the IGS staff and it should contribute to a further increase of production efficiency. It has been well received by authors, which should contribute to the Journal's attractiveness.

Concerning the Annals of Glaciology, we received the excellent news that it has been accepted as a journal for the Thomson Reuters ISI Web of Science. It will receive an impact factor. Hopefully the first one will be available in June 2011. This is indeed very good news and shows that introducing a new Annals editorial policy was fruitful. I would like to acknowledge the continuous action of our Secretary General, Magnús Már Magnússon, who maintained the pressure on that issue during the last 3 years.

Volume 51 of the Annals is now complete. Annals 51(56) was completed in March this year. This was the first Annals issue to be published completely independently of any meeting. We are investigating the possibility of publishing another 'independent' issue of the Annals and of making this a regular feature of the Annals of Glaciology. We are due to publish 4 issues in 2011, which will make up Volume 52. We have now published 2 of those, Annals 52(57) (part one and two), Annals 52(58) is almost complete on the web and we are well advanced with Annals 52(59.)

The Annals online submission system should be live to accept the papers submitted to the thematic issue of 'Interactions of Ice Sheets and Glaciers with the Ocean'.

We have completed the 2010 publication of ICE and are hoping to be up to date by the end of 2011. We are hoping to move to an online ICE in the near future.

For the continuous efforts which make the success of the IGS publication activities, I would like to acknowledge our Chief Scientific Editor, Jo Jacka, the Journal editorial board, the Publication Committee, chaired by Christina Hulbe, the IGS Production Manager, Christine Butler, the IGS staff in Cambridge and our Secretary General, Magnús Már Magnússon.

We are now in our third year of using the new membership and events management software. It has substantially helped in the running of the Society and simplified several tasks within the office, with the online membership renewal and symposium registration system; it has made things considerably easier.

The IGS staff is constantly modifying the workflow within the office to make full use of the software and further action will be necessary to bring all operations and tasks up to speed. We are hoping to make full use of our 'Portal Website' and we are working on introducing an 'online shopping basket', which will enable authors to pay for page charges online, and for members and the public to buy past issues of the Journal, Annals and all IGS publications.

The Society should see the full benefit of the management system in the latter half of 2011 and in 2012. Staffing now amounts to approximately two and a half full time positions in production, one and a half positions in administration and one position in membership/subscriptions. Staffing costs remained high for 2010 but we are intending to bring those down in 2011.

Since a few years, the IGS Council is very much concerned by the decrease in its membership that IGS had to face between 2000 and 2008. Our Secretary General put this issue at the top of his priorities. Thanks to his action, we have been able to stem the decline in our membership.

2010 saw a significant increase of members, with 92 more than in 2009. And so far this year we have 48 new members and 70 old members that have rejoined. Members are also more alert to the fact that paying promptly is beneficial to the Society. There is a steady stream of new members, as can be seen by the list that appears in every issue of ICE. We do need, however, to continue to press former members to renew their membership.

Last year during the AGM in Sapporo, I reported the concern of the Council about the Society's finances. The Council, which met on Monday, paid particular attention to the Treasurer's report.

The finances of the Society are hopefully stabilizing. In 2009 we had a large deficit, and although we still have a deficit in 2010 it has gone down considerably. And there is reasonable hope that the reduction in staffing costs will allow us to balance our budget in 2011 or early 2012.

I will finish this annual report by mentioning our Symposia activities.

The IGS sponsored the 'International Symposium on Snow, Ice and Humanity in a Changing Climate' held in June 2010 in Sapporo. It was attended by 154 delegates and was a great success.

We also sponsored the Byrd Polar Center celebratory symposium 'Earth's Disappearing Ice; Drivers, Responses and Impacts', attended by 102 delegates and a great success as well.

We are presently sponsoring the 'International Symposium on Interactions of Ice Sheets and Glaciers with the Ocean', in La Jolla, California. We are impressed by the excellent organization and quality of the presentations.

In addition we are working on symposia in Helsinki, Finland, southern France and Fairbanks, Alaska in 2012; South America, New Zealand and China in 2013; Alberta, Canada in 2013-14 and Hobart, Australia in 2014. We are also planning symposia in China and the UK in 2015 and in Boulder, Colorado in 2016.

As I now complete my term as President of the IGS, I would like to thank Magnus and his staff, Jo and all the editors of the Journal and Annals, and all of you, the members of IGS who have made my term most enjoyable.

The Secretary General invited members to discuss the President's report. A question was asked from the floor whether personnel changes were driven by monetary motives or the need for greater efficiency. The President responded that in light of the introduction of new technology within the office it was clear that reorganization was required as some responsibilities became superfluous while new ones were required. Indeed it started before we faced a large deficit. Another question was raised as to the procedure and policy regarding how ordinary members would go about initiating a publication of a thematic issue of *Annals of Glaciology*. The IGS Chief Editor responded that the issue had been raised in an editorial in ICE but it would be beneficial to publish a separate note in ICE on the issue. In response to the question he said, any individual or group may submit a proposal to the IGS Council through the Secretary General. The Council may refer the proposal to the Publications Committee for advice. The proposing group should be confident that the issue will attract a substantial number of submissions of high scientific calibre and that it will attract a high readership level. The proposal may also include the names of potential scientific editors.

R. Bindschadler proposed and F. Pattyn seconded, that the President's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

3. The Secretary General, on behalf of the treasurer, Dr. I.C. Willis, presented the following reported with the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2010.

Council opted to have our accountants undertake an Independent Examiner's Report rather than a full Audit this year. This was deemed sufficient since the day to day running of the accounts by IGS staff was more accurate this year than in recent years due to better management of and greater familiarity with the accounts' software.

The Society's finances are best summarised by considering the changes from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010, 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 and the Richardson Medal. The Unrestricted Funds is everything else.

Restricted Funds: decreased from £9,059 to £8,206 due to the costs of making 6 blank Richardson Medals (£853), one of which was awarded in 2010. A Seligman Crystal was also manufactured (£280) and £201 was transferred from Unrestricted Funds to add to the £82 made on bank interest so that the net cost to the Restricted Funds of the Seligman Crystal was zero.

Unrestricted Funds: decreased by £69,720 from £443,684 to £373,964 showing that the income to IGS largely from membership, sales of the Journal and Annals, page charges and symposia attendance fell short of 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 had net resources expended before revaluation of £71,564 resulting in the negative movement in the Society's funds of £70,573 in 2010, compared to the bigger loss of £122,499 in 2009 a much smaller loss of £4,837 in 2008, a net profit of £11,327 in 2007 and a profit of £29,799 in 2006.

This reduction in the net loss of the Society compared to last year is encouraging but we still have some way to go before we break even or turn in a small profit. The Society must continue this trend in reducing the deficit over the next year or two and should aim to be producing a surplus again in 2012 or 2013.

In more detail, income is itemised in notes 2-6, pages 14-16 and expenditure is listed in notes 7-10, pages 16-18. The accounts are presented under the same headings that were introduced last year of 'Journal, ICE & Books', 'Annals', and 'Meetings/Symposia' to reflect the three main activities of the Society.

Income:

Note 2. Voluntary income increased from £1,987 to £6,308 due to an increase in Royalties (which more than offset a decrease in Donations).

Note 3. Trading activities is a new category this year associated with the selling of ties. It turned in a small profit of £915. Once the online membership software is fully operational, perhaps the Society should investigate the selling of other merchandise (broaches, towels, mugs, etc).

Note 4. Due to continued low bank interest rates, Investment Income is low again this year (£4,800) and similar to last year (£4,973); very different to the situation in 2008 where income from this source was £29,986.

Notes 5 & 6. Compared with 2009, income from membership subscriptions, sales of the Journal, ICE & Books, sales of Annals, and conferences & symposia are all up in 2010. This is good, and reverses the negative trend for all these activities over the 2008-9 period.

Membership subscriptions are shown to be up by £9,876 from £44,869 to £54,745 (page 10). Membership numbers have increased and payments have been received before the new subscription year or early in the year as a result of much better management of the membership database and sending out of renewal notices, helped by the new membership management software that the Society introduced at the start of 2009.

Journal sales to libraries and other organisations were up slightly by £2,189 from £84,469 (2009) to £86,658, a rise of 2.6%. This compares with a rise of 4.3% in the annual subscription rate (£300 to £313) and together this suggests that the number of libraries subscribing to the Journal fell between 2009 and 2010. This continues the trend from 2008-2009 and should be a concern to the Society.

Page charge income increased by £10,984 from £88,441 to £99,425 (i.e. an increase of 12%). This compares to an increase of £11,697 (2008-9) and an increase of £21,695 (2007-8). Page charges to authors remained the same from 2008 to 2010. The increased income of 12% compared to an increase in pages published of 5.4% implies more authors were able to honour page charges in 2010 compared to 2009. The implementation of a new 'page charge structure' of the Journal in mid 2010 (to bring it in line with the Annals page structure) will hopefully enable more authors to pay the page charges and will yield a further increase in income per page in the future. This needs to be monitored.

Total income from Annals is up by £4,997 from £64,635 to £69,632, up by about 8%. [NB. This does not include income for the Annals from delegates at conferences who essentially receive their copy 'free', i.e. this is accounted for under the income to meetings/symposia heading]. This item is dominated therefore by income from library subscriptions and page charges. The total 2009-10 income increased by 8% despite the fact that the number of volumes decreased from 4 to 3 (i.e. 25%) and the number of pages dropped from 628 to 513 (i.e. a decrease of 18%).

Expenditure:

Note 7. The expenditure of £3,212 reflects sponsorship of the activities of UKPN and the Alaska Glaciology Summer School in Fairbanks in June. Council agreed that these two ventures were worth supporting, primarily because they helped young scientists. These are excellent things for the Society to sponsor but we should be careful not to over commit to this type of help, until our accounts start breaking even or turning in a profit once more.

Note 8. The direct costs associated with editing, printing, publishing and distributing the Journal and Annals and material for Meetings / Symposia increased by £8,676 from £121,735 to £130,411 compared to an increase of £16,568 (2008-9) and a decrease of £9,513 (2007-8). Wages and salaries associated with these activities actually decreased in 2010 compared to 2009 reflecting increased efficiency by the IGS production staff. Editorial fees and expenses increased, largely because of the increased number of papers being submitted. Proof reading and editorial costs increased also, largely due to the same reason.

Note 9. The support costs associated with Journal, Annals and Meetings / Symposia activity have increased by £81,754 from £272,431 to £354,185, an increase of 30%. This compares with an increase of £39,475 (17%) in 2008-9 and an increase of £77,793 (50%) in 2007-8. The biggest hikes between 2009 and 2010 are associated with:

i) Symposia, where support costs increased by £62,556 because three major IGS sponsored symposia were held during 2010 (500 participants in total) compared to two in 2009, one of which was held in the UK (100 participants) and one in India which was attended by 40 'foreigners'. The participation of local scientists in India was supported by the local organizers as was all logistics costs.

ii) Wages and salaries, which increased by £13,294, most of which (about £11,000) was associated with a redundancy payment (for the position of Assistant to the Secretary General).

Some of the wages and salary costs are associated with the continued employment of a part-time Membership Manager (Trevor Margereson) throughout 2010 (he was appointed part way through 2008) and the additional appointment of two student helpers. Trevor and the students were employed to oversee the transition to the new computerised and online members' management / payment system. In 2011 and beyond, we envisage that Support Costs' wages and salaries will be reduced because: a) we no longer employ an Assistant to the Secretary General; b) as the new management / payment system is up and running, the Membership Manager's working hours will gradually be wound down and finish in the summer of 2011; furthermore there will be no need to hire in additional temporary help. It should be recognised, however, that the Society has recently employed a new part time person, Louise Buckingham, to the position of Membership and Accounts Manager and the salary associated with this position will go some way to offsetting the future wages and salary savings.

iii) Pension costs of £30,109. Council agreed to introduce a pension scheme for the main IGS employees, which became operational in 2010. Because of the delay in implementing the scheme after Council first approved it, it was agreed to backdate the pension payments pro rata to 2006. Thus, over £20,000 of the £30,109 is due to these one off back payments and to paying a Financial Advisor to set up the scheme. The annual cost of the pension scheme in future will be <£10,000.

Travel and subsistence costs, largely the Secretary General representing the Society at Meetings, have also increased. It is useful for our Secretary General to be seen at meetings and present talks about the Society and try to solicit new members. But these costs have increased from £10,843 in 2008, £15,142 in 2009 and £18,609 in 2010. In 2010 the IGS paid for the travel costs for Society officers on three occasions. An additional cost increase is, I suspect, due to the increased costs of air travel and the weak Stirling against other currencies. Care is needed to ensure this item of expenditure does not increase out of proportion with other support costs.

The provision of doubtful debts actually represents a negative cost (credit) to the Society since continued substantial effort with a lot of success has been extended on chasing up aged debts. Most debtors are now less than a few months old, rather than up to several years old as was the case a few years ago. As note 18 on page 21 shows, net debtors (i.e. after the provision has been removed) amounted to £32,423 in 2010 compared to £49,859 in 2009. In 2008 it was £110,481! This continued reduction in the net debt and the provision for the debt is therefore a very good thing for the Society. The new online management / payment system together with restructuring of personnel within the IGS office should reduce the debtors within each year still further in the future.

Note 10. Governance costs associated with running the Society as a Charity have remained stable. Opting for an Independent Financial Report rather than a full Audit has saved the Society £2,000. The accountants, the Secretary General and I agree that this was a perfectly adequate procedure to assess the Society's accounts and could be continued in the future. Furthermore, costs have decreased due to savings brought about by IGS staff's increased efficiency in the use of the office accounting/membership software.

Summary

The Society's finances are still in fairly good shape but there would still appear to be room for improvement in the way the Society operates. We ran a moderate deficit in 2010 (~18% of funds) compared to a much bigger deficit in 2009 (~27% of funds), a small deficit in 2008 (<1% of total funds), a small profit in 2007 (~2% of total funds) and a bigger profit in 2006 (~5.5% of total funds). The net result over the past five years is we have been running at a loss. Our assets are still £382,170 and so there is no need for major alarm, but clearly our recent position is unsustainable in the long term.

On the income side, it is hoped that the new page charging structure for the Journal will result in more authors paying page charges. Faster invoicing and the ability to pay online should help with this. The Society has increased its paying membership recently and it is hoped that more people will be encouraged to join in the future. More innovative ways of attracting younger members and members from emerging industrialised nations, especially India and China, should be investigated. The Society must also try to ensure that library subscriptions to the Journal and Annals do not continue to slip and, again, investigate possible different ways of obtaining more income from sales/online access

to libraries/institutions. The Society has recently moved some of its bank assets to a higher interest account, but until interest rates increase generally, the Society will continue to suffer from lack of revenue from this source. Perhaps the Society should investigate the possibility of obtaining grants from private industry sponsors to support some of its activities. Sale of merchandise online could also be investigated.

On the expenditure side, the Society should note that some of the items will not be continued into 2011. In 2010 the Society paid the salaries of a full time Assistant to the Secretary General in addition to a part time Membership Manager and student assistants. From 2011 onwards it will only employ a part time Membership and Accounts Manager. Furthermore, in 2010 the Society made one off payments of ~£31,000 which were redundancy costs and pension back payments.

The Society has now made the transition to the new joint MRM-SAGE management & accounting system, and has made some personnel changes within the office. Although implementing these changes has cost the Society in recent years, the Society should now be in a position to start benefitting from these changes in terms of lower salary costs, lower costs and fees payable to an outside examiner / auditor, and reduced losses associated with aged debtors.

Ian C. Willis, Treasurer
1st June 2011

The SG invited members to discuss the Treasurers report.

M. Truffer asked what proportion of authors pay page charges. The SG replied that information had not been compiled but it would be useful to do and he would collate the data. H.J. Zwally asked whether there still was reluctance in Europe to pay page charges. He also asked whether it was still IGS policy to publish papers where page charges had been paid, faster than those where page charges had not been paid. The SG responded that as publication is now very prompt in the Journal it is now of little relevance to the publication order whether page charges are paid or not, all papers accepted for publication in the *Journal of Glaciology* are published as quickly as possible. A. Jenkins commented on the non-compliance policy and if it became widely known that the IGS was willing to waive page charges it would encourage authors not to pay. He felt authors should submit a well reasoned argument why page charges should be reduced or waived. The SG said this was the case, all requests for non payments were considered on a case by case basis and the individual author's arguments were carefully considered. He knew of no case where a paper had not been published or withdrawn because page charges had not been paid. Chief Editor made it clear that as a policy he does not know whether the author will be able to pay page charges so it does not affect his scientific judgement. T. Murray commented that often it is students that have just finished their studies and who do not have financial support that are unable to pay.

T. Murray proposed, and A. Jenkins seconded, that the Treasurer's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

4. Election of auditors for 2011 accounts.

On a motion from the Secretary General, R. Bindschadler proposed, and A. Rivers seconded, that Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore of Cambridge be elected 'Independent Inspectors for the 2011 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 2011–2014, no further nominations were received, and the following members were therefore elected unanimously.

Presidents:	Douglas MacAyeal
Vice-Presidents:	Perry Bartelt Francisco Navarro
Elective Members(4):	Xiao Cunde Shuji Fujita Catherine Ritz Margit Schwikowski

These appointments were unanimously approved by the AGM.

The outgoing President Eric Brun handed over the meeting to the incoming President A. MacAyeal.

The President thanked the Immediate Past President for his valuable contribution during his term of office. The president also recognized the attendance of past president Robert Bindschadler.

6. Other business:

No other business was raised.

The AGM was adjourned on a motion from R. Robertson seconded by O. Sergienko at 13:06