

INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

28 June 2012, Wood Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

The President, Douglas R. MacAyeal, was in the Chair.

98 persons, from 20 countries, attended of which 93 were members.

1. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, published in the ICE, 2011, No 156, p. 23–27, were approved on a motion by Olga Sergienko and seconded by Robert Bindshadler and signed by the President.

2. The President gave the following report for 2011-2012:

Dear members, ladies and gentlemen

It is my pleasure to report to you on the status of the International Glaciological Society during its 76th year of existence and the end of my first year in my 3-year term as the Society's President. This report shall consist of a brief outline of what the IGS is all about (particularly, to inform our many new members who may have not yet had a chance to inspect the IGS website where these things are recorded), what it does, how it functions and what challenges it faces in the year to come.

The IGS is a learned society that has 5 objectives (which I paraphrase):

1. To stimulate interest and learning in Glaciological science; to facilitate communication about Glaciological science; to be a source of glaciological knowledge for the rest of the world...

2. To publish the *Journal of Glaciology*, *Annals of Glaciology*, and *ICE*;

3. To organize, sponsor and co-sponsor symposia, lectures, field-trips, and summer schools where snow and ice science are at play.

4. To provide services to its members in the form of subscriptions, publication and editorial services, registration services, and to run internet media such as the IGS website and other outlets of information.

5. Finally, to make awards that recognize scientists who contribute to glaciological knowledge.

The IGS is organized as a registered charity under the laws of the United Kingdom. It has its home office in Cambridge.

Highlights of the past year:

- As of June, 2012, the IGS has about 920 members located throughout the world. About 1/3 of the IGS members are students and/or early career scientists. It is also notable to say that approximately 1/3 of all members (both regular and students alike) have opted for "on-line only" (or paper free) subscriptions to the IGS Journals during 2012, the first year that this has been possible. Membership this year is up from about 750 in 2010 and 800 in 2011.

The 2012 membership year is notable in that it is the first year that "on-line only" access to the IGS publications is available as a membership option. So far, about 1/3 of all members have opted for paper-free subscriptions, and many of the institutional subscribers have opted for on-line only as well.

- Currently in the 2012 institutional subscription year, the IGS has about 260 institutional subscribers to the *Journal*, and about 160 institutional subscribers to the *Annals*. A worrisome trend is that the current subscription number of 260 is down from 312 in 2010. This trend is in spite of the fact that our institutional subscription rates are considered relatively reasonable (e.g., £332 for the *Journal* in 2012).

- In 2011, the *Journal of Glaciology* published 1793 pages spread over 6 issues, and *Annals of Glaciology* published 785 pages spread over 4 issues. This production rate reflects a continuing

trend of increasing paper submissions. The number of pages the *Journal* published in 2010 was just about half of what was published in 2012. As of the present, it looks like 2012 will continue to outpace previous years for both pages published and papers submitted. Other metrics attesting to the progress of our *Journal* and *Annals* include: the number of color pages per issue has doubled (from about 30 to about 60) over the past two years, the number of papers involving complex mathematical typesetting has increased, and the IGS now assigns doi numbers and has modified its referencing format to be more consistent with industry standards.

It is of particular importance to point out that the “old stereotype” of the IGS editing and production process being “slow” (for review, post-review production and copy editing, etc.) have been strictly and completely obsolete for years, and the IGS journals represent a truly first-class means to achieve rapid, high-quality dissemination of scientific research. In 2011, the average time between a manuscript’s acceptance and appearance as a published paper on the IGS website was reduced to less than 50 days.

Additional aspects of note are the fact that the *Annals* is now an ISI publication with an impact factor of 1.8. The *Annals* continues to increase its stature as it is now being considered more commonly by other cryospheric organizations as a possible outlet for publication.

The flagship *Journal of Glaciology* continues to be regarded as an eminent if not superior product for the dissemination of glaciological knowledge (it’s impact factor is listed as 2.3 for 2012). This is due to the cooperation of three entities: the editorial board led so ably and so generously by Jo Jacka, the CE of the IGS, the referees at large, who continue to serve the science through their unheralded but essential contribution, and the authors, who continue to be both sophisticated and flexible in their response to the scientific peer review system that the IGS operates.

It is important to note that over the last several years, the IGS has changed its official “point of publication” from the printing of the paper volume to the posting of the official IGS PDF on the IGS website. This represents a huge modernization of the IGS publications. Every paper that is published by the IGS spends a short period of time (lasting 8 weeks typically) in “open access” before it is sequestered behind the IGS membership login. The IGS has a very liberal (but distinctly IGS favorable) “institutional archiving” policy that allows appropriate posting of IGS publications on the internet when this is required by institutions and government funding sources.

- Since the last AGM held in La Jolla, in June 2011. The IGS has been the main sponsor of 2 Symposia (Lahti and Fairbanks, in Spring of 2012) and has co-sponsored numerous other symposia including the various branch meetings. The IGS has also provided financial assistance in support of the Alaskan Glaciological Summer School and has assisted the ISMAS workshop to be held next month in Portland, Oregon. Next year, the IGS will hold two Symposia, one in Beijing and one in Lawrence, Kansas. There will be IGS branch meetings in Scotland, Sweden, the US and New Zealand in the coming year.

- The IGS has a home office with a staff of one permanent employee (our revered and much admired Secretary General, Magnús Magnússon) and 5 part-time employees whose duties range from typesetting and other production tasks for the *Journal* and *Annals*, to membership, to accounts and billing. In addition to the part time staff in the IGS office, there are external contractors (usually students at the University of Cambridge) who do copy editing and other tasks on a piece-by-piece basis. Having visited the IGS home office twice in the past year, I can say that the Secretary General (SG) runs a happy ship that continues to be both innovative and efficient in performing its work at a high-level of quality.

- In terms of finances, the IGS, under the watchful eye of our Treasurer, Ian Willis, who will report separately in a moment, and as a result of the proactive efforts of our SG and the new Membership and Accounts Manager, Ms. Louise Buckingham, has become nearly balanced after a long period of deficits. I shall defer to the Treasurer for further information on the IGS financial status.

Now that I have summarized the status of the IGS, I turn to expressing my thoughts on what I think our coming challenges will be. As I do so, I make note of the fact that the IGS has done a

remarkable job in rising to past challenges (including raising the status of the *Annals* to an ISI listed journal, renovating the accounts and invoicing systems within the home office, renovating membership and registration procedures, increasing membership, and organizing new and interesting symposia). This success is due entirely to the foresight of the previous presidents, including the immediate past president, Eric Brun, and his predecessor, Atsumu Ohmura, and to the hard work of our SG, Magnús Magnússon, and his colleagues in the home office.

What are the challenges that lie ahead?

- In my view, the IGS would benefit from adopting a “mandatory” policy for page charges. Following a lengthy discussion of this view among Council members (beginning before the previous Council meeting in Grenoble, 2011, and continuing at the Council meeting at Lahti, 2012) and the publication committee of the IGS, the Council meeting in Fairbanks, held a few days ago, decided to make page-charges for the *Journal of Glaciology* “mandatory.” The page charging system for the *Annals* is unchanged (recall: 4 free pages to authors registered for symposia, and mandatory charges on all other pages, etc.). The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to the publication of papers where authors and their institutions are unable to honor page charges for financial, social and other reasons. While nobody likes to pay page charges, they are necessary to support the high-quality peer reviewed publication process that the IGS fosters. Our hope is that institutions and authors who have previously felt that “non compulsory” page charges could not be honored because of budget shortfalls elsewhere in their support will now view page-charge payment as an obligation that is equal to the other obligations in their research budgets.

- The IGS depends on the loyalty of new young members. Over the past year, as I have visited various IGS branch meetings and spoken informally with students and early career scientists, I have become more aware of how important it is to continue to encourage new, youthful membership. Accordingly, based on my recommendation, the Council has approved (here in the Fairbanks meeting) to create a new on-line student membership category at a significantly reduced fee during the 2013 membership renewal season. In addition, early career scientists under 30 who are not students may be members at the rate presently published (as printed in *ICE* and on the website).

- The loss of institutional subscribers continues to be a concern. And this loss could become a landslide if and when the publishing industry converts to an “open access” policy. The Council is thinking about ways to encourage continued institutional subscriptions, for the purposes of both maintaining an income stream as well as for continuing in the objective to maintain high access to our journals worldwide. One idea that is being considered is to adopt a two tiered system of subscription rates to allow smaller institutions, such as associated campus labs and field stations, to access IGS materials at a substantially lower cost than for large institutions such as the major research universities around the world. During the Council meeting in Fairbanks, the SG was asked to explore and institute a two-tiered institutional subscription rate in time for the 2013 subscription season.

At this point I shall close my report and shall ask the Secretary General and Membership and Accounts Manager, Louise Buckingham, to assist me in answering your questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas R. MacAyeal, President

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

R. Jacobel asked whether a library that stopped its subscription would retain its online access. The President responded that libraries and institutes retain access to whatever specific issues they have previously paid for (subscribed to) ad infinitum.

R. Braithwaite indicated he reluctantly supported compulsory page charges. The President thanked him for his understanding, and indicated that his support was indeed very important to the IGS.

U. Herzfeld expressed her general objection to page charges and that she felt that page charges would discourage paper submission. She felt that acceptance of papers should be based on scientific

merit. The President responded that publication of all papers in IGS publications is indeed based on scientific merit and that the scientific editing of manuscripts is, and shall continue to be, “blind” to the ability of the authors (or their institutions) to honour page charges. He further indicated that the IGS strongly adheres to the publication of papers by authors who (for whatever reason) cannot cover page charges.

M. Truffer asked what the procedure for the page charge waiver, partial or otherwise, was. The President responded that it had not been finalized but at present it was left up to the SG’s discretion. Discounts and waivers granted to authors in such cases will be financially supported by the aggregate of IGS income, which includes the payment of page charges by authors and institutions that can afford to do so. Applications for discount or waiver will, for the time being, be under the control of the SG and the IGS accounts manager and financial officers, not the Scientific Editors, as the scientific editing process is independent of all financial considerations. Ultimately, the waiver or discount of page-charges would be determined on need and the financial conditions of the IGS at the time.

T.H. Jacka proposed and Regine Hock seconded, that the President's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

3. The IGS Treasurer, Dr. I.C. Willis, presented the following report with the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2011.

Like last year, we opted to have our accountants undertake an Independent Examiner’s Report rather than a full Audit this year.

The Society's finances are best summarised by considering the changes from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011, 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: increased by £156 from £8,206 to £8,362 as a result of accrued interest. No Seligman Crystals nor Richardson Medals were awarded this year (2011; however, it is noted that a Seligman Crystal has been awarded in 2012).

Unrestricted Funds: decreased by £19,355 from £373,964 to £354,609 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 £18,434 resulting in the negative movement in the Society’s funds of £19,199 in 2011, compared to the bigger loss of £70,573 in 2010, an even bigger loss of £122,499 in 2009 a smaller loss of £4,837 in 2008, and a net profit of £11,327 in 2007.

This continued reduction in the net loss of the Society since 2009 is encouraging but we still have a little way to go before we break even or turn in a small profit. We are heading in the right direction and if we continue along the recent trend we should produce a small surplus again in 2012. **This must be our major aim.**

In more detail, income is itemised in notes 2-6, and expenditure is listed in notes 3 and 7-10 on pages 14-18. The accounts are presented under the same headings that were introduced for 2009 of '*Journal*, *ICE & Books*', '*Annals*', and '*Meetings/Symposia*' to reflect the three main activities of the Society.

Income:

Note 2. Voluntary income was £1,522 in 2011 compared to £6,308 the year before. This reflects fewer Royalties associated with lower sales of individual articles through INGENTA and licensing fees (for copying individual articles) collected by the Publishers Licensing Society Ltd (PLS).

Note 3. Trading activities associated with the sale of IGS merchandise turned in a tiny profit of just £33 compared to a small profit of £915 the year before. This largely reflects the cost of manufacturing

hats and ties this year; merchandise that has not yet been sold.

Note 4. Due to the transfer of IGS reserves into medium term investment accounts in July 2011 (£200,000 into a two year account and £100,000 into a one year account) investment income is higher in 2011 (£7,842) than in 2010 (£4,800) and 2009 (£4,973). But interest rates are still very much lower than in 2008 when income from this source was £29,986.

Note 5. Income from membership subscriptions and sales of the *Journal*, *ICE* & Books to libraries and individuals is up by £17,420 from £242,880 in 2010 to £260,300 in 2011. Similarly, sales of *Annals* is also up by £70,286 from £69,632 in 2010 to £139,918 in 2011. Conversely, income from conferences and symposia is down by £83,362 from £133,393 in 2010 to £50,031 in 2011. These three points are considered separately below.

Membership subscriptions (see page 10) are up by £1,979 from £54,745 to £56,723. This continues the trend from last year. Membership numbers have continued to go up and payments have increasingly 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. See Membership and Accounts Manager report for more details.

Journal sales to libraries and other organisations (see page 16) were up slightly by £2,056 from £86,658 (2010) to £88,714 (2011), a rise of 2.4%. [A virtually identical rise occurred 2009-2010.] In 2010-2011, the annual subscription rate rose by 3.5% (£313 to £324). Together, this shows that the number of libraries subscribing to the *Journal* fell between 2010 and 2011. The Membership and Accounts Manager's report shows that *Journal* subscriptions to libraries were down by 12. This continues the trend from 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 and should continue to be a concern to the Society.

Journal page charge income increased by £14,553 from £99,425 (2010) to £113,978 (2011), an increase of 14.5%. This compares to an increase of £10,984 (2009-10), 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 2011. The increased income of 14.5% compared to an increase in pages published of just 1% shows more authors were able to honour page charges in 2011 compared to 2010. This is a good sign and continues the trend from 2009-2010. This should continue to be monitored.

Total income from *Annals* is up by £70,108 from £69,632 (2010) to £139,740 (2011), up by about 100%. [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. These both increased in 2011 compared to 2010 since the number of volumes increased from 2 to 5 (NB. 51(56) from 2010 was actually delayed into 2011), and the number of pages increased from 513 to 961. There was also a generous £22,894 contribution towards the publication of *Annals* 53(61) from the Sakhalin Centre for Regional Marketing.

The reduction in income from meetings/symposia from 2010 to 2011 is primarily because we had three symposia in 2010 and only one in 2011.

Expenditure:

Note 7. The Society did not receive requests for support for meetings/symposia in 2011. This compares with two such requests in 2010 and the donations amounting to £3,212 associated with the sponsorship of the activities of UKPN and the Alaska Glaciology Summer School.

Note 8. The direct costs associated with editing, printing, publishing and distributing the *Journal* and *Annals* and material for Meetings / Symposia increased by £5,086 from £130,411 to £135,497. This compares to an increase of £8,676 (2009-10) an increase of £16,568 (2008-9) and a decrease of £9,513 (2007-8). Wages and salaries associated with these activities increased slightly, largely due to the extra time needed to work on the extra *Annals* volumes in 2011 cf. 2010. Editorial fees and expenses decreased, as did proof reading and editorial costs. This is despite the fact that the Society published more *Journal* and *Annals* pages in 2011 cf. 2010. This is a good sign, providing the quality of our publications has not suffered.

Note 9. The support costs associated with *Journal, Annals* and meetings / symposia activity have decreased by £61,664 from £354,185 to £292,521. This reverses the trend of year-on-year increases since 2008 (+£81,754 in 2009-10; +£39,475 in 2008-9 and +£77,793 in 2007-8). The decrease this year partly reflects the reduced costs associated with running one symposium rather than the 2 or 3 of recent years. But encouragingly, it also reflects a reduction under the “wages and salaries” heading associated with recent streamlining of work practices in the IGS office and the creation of the position of Membership and Accounts Manager. It also reflects a massively reduced cost under the “pensions” heading. The 2011 £9,021 figure represents the realistic annual cost of the pension scheme introduced the previous year. The inflated figure of £30,109 for 2010 reflects not only the contributions for 2010, but also the backlog contributions that Council agreed to pay to employees for the previous 2 years.

However, there are some big increases in costs in other areas and effort needs to be made to reduce these costs in the future. These include:

i) Telephone, stationery & postage. This increased by £6,157 (16%), largely as a result of increased mailing costs of our printers, Page Bros. This item might be expected to drop in future as more members opt to receive their copies of the *Journal* on line.

ii) Computer costs. These have increased by £9,630 (48%) largely due to the overdue upgrade of hardware and software and to the revamping of the website (including the setting up of the ‘Members Only’ section).

iii) Travel and subsistence costs. This increased again this year by £3,808 (20%). Previous years’ increases were: £3,467 (23%) 2009-10; and £4,299 (40%) 2008-9. So the rate of increase of this item is coming down, but it is still increasing at well above background inflation nevertheless. This item was £10,843 in 2008 and was £22,417 in 2011, representing a doubling in 4 years. The costs are largely associated with our Secretary General (and occasionally other members of the office or editorial staff) representing the Society at meetings and symposia. So the increases reflect the greater number of meetings attended (symposia attendance was less in 2011 than in 2010), as well as, I suspect, the increased costs of air travel. It is important for our Secretary General to represent the Society at meetings, of course, but continued care must be taken to ensure this item of expenditure does not increase out of proportion with other support costs, which it has been doing of late.

The provision of doubtful debts represents a negative cost (credit) to the Society since continued substantial effort with a lot of success has been expended on chasing up aged debts. All 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 £22,888 in 2011. This continues the downward trend of £32,423 in 2010, £49,859 in 2009 and £110,481 in 2008. 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 has reduced net debtors within the year to sensible numbers. It is hoped that this can be reduced still further by continued prompt invoicing (and hopefully payments received).

Note 10. Governance costs associated with running the Society as a Charity increased slightly in 2011 compared to previous years, as a result of one-off-costs associated with professional advice and staff time taken up with dealing with the backlog of VAT payments that were due on page charges from UK tax payers over recent years [see also item under note 8 “Additional VAT on page charges”]. These payments are now factored in to the new page charging scheme and will not represent a net expenditure to the Society in future.

Summary

The Society’s finances are in much better shape than they have been for some years. We ran a moderate deficit in 2011 (5% of funds) which compares with a bigger deficit in 2010 (~18% of funds) a much bigger deficit in 2009 (~27% of funds), a small deficit in 2008 (<1% of 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 six years is we have been running at a loss. Our assets are still £362,971 and so there is no need for major alarm, but clearly our recent position is unsustainable in the long term. The Society is now

setting a budget on all key items of income and expenditure and is more closely monitoring each item on a weekly to monthly basis. If this improved budgeting continues to next year, and if the trends in income vs. expenditure continue, it is anticipated that the Society will turn in a small profit next year. **This should certainly be its major goal.**

The following paragraph is taken verbatim from my report last year. I repeat it here since it is still relevant, and contain thoughts that need to be explicitly addressed by council over the next year and beyond.

“On the income side, 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’s expenses now look to have stabilised and been brought under control. A few big items of expenditure in recent years (purchase of the MRM management system and its integration with the SAGE accounting system; wages and salaries of extra employees brought in to oversee the transfer of database details from the old to the new management system; pension backlog; redundancy payment) are now behind us.

Ian C. Willis, Treasurer
18th May 2012

The SG invited members to discuss the Treasurers report.

R. Bindschadler asked whether the Society was on course in its budget and what was the predicted outcome for the present year. The Treasure and SG responded that at present the Society was on target for the 2012 budget. The budget for 2013 will not be finalised until the end of the summer.

H. Jiskoot asked whether the Society had in the passed received legacies of any sort and whether that was something that should be looked into in the future. The SG responded that in the past the Society had indeed received legacies, most notably from the estate of G. Seligman. The issue had been raised before by former IGS President, R. Bindschadler but had not been further looked into. Perhaps it was time to do so now.

E. King proposed, and U. Herzfeld seconded, that the Treasurer's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

4. Election of auditors for 2012 accounts.

On a motion from the Secretary General, R. Bindschadler proposed, and H. Jiskoot seconded, that Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore of Cambridge be elected “Independent Inspectors or Auditors”, whichever is appropriate for the 2012 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.

Vice-president:	Regine Hock
Treasurer:	Ian C. Willis

Elective Members: Stephen Déry
 Ashwagosha Ganju
 Julienne Stroeve
 Jemma Wadham

These appointments were unanimously approved by the AGM.

The President thanked the outgoing Council members and welcomed the newly elected members.

The President recognized the attendance of past presidents Garry C.K. Clarke and Robert Bindschadler.

6. Other business:

R. Bindschadler said that following his keynote talk this past Monday he had received several supportive comments regarding his statement that the Society should occupy a more ‘public stance’ for the various discussions relating the changing climate. He would thus like to put forward the following motion.

‘That the Council form a committee to organize and make available to IGS members materials (such as statements, figures, illustrations and photographs) that effectively communicate the current state of the cryosphere, observations of change within the cryosphere, the role of the cryosphere in climate change and the impact of these changes on global society.’

As for a name, he suggested it might be called the Communication Committee or the Outreach Materials Committee, or something else of the Council’s liking.

T.H. Jacka expressed his concern that the Society would be seen not being neutral and stressed that all ventures by the Society into the public domain should be purely on scientific Grounds. The proposer was asked how this would be implemented and he responded that he foresaw the Society would be a proactive proponent of good science and would provide material from which members could draw. In a sense the Society would be a ‘sort of a clearing house’.

E. King agreed with the proposer and said it would be good for members to have a consistent story to tell.

M. Truffer suggested that all IGS material thus made available would automatically be assigned with a copyright permission so make things smoother.

R. Braithwaite pointed out that there are other organizations that provide a similar service. The President responded that as a Learned Society the IGS would be well place and a beneficial addition to that pool.

W.T. Pfeffer proclaimed his support however was concerned that it would be difficult to do. The Society should remain professional at all times and should stick to its ideals.

T. Jóhannesson said the Society should provide data and not presume it would be providing the last word. The service should direct members towards relevant papers and figures.

The motion was seconded by T. H. Jacka and approved by a show of hands

U. Herzfeld then asked that the Council members who were at the meeting be introduced to the rest of the meeting. The Secretary General then explained why some members have been co-opted onto the Council.

The AGM was adjourned on a motion from G.K. Clarke seconded by M. Truffer at 12:32