

INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

14 December 2013, room Sierra I, San Francisco Marriott Marquis, California, USA

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

51 persons, from 13 countries, attended of which 39 were members.

1. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, published in the ICE, 2013, No 162, p. 25–31, were approved on a motion by L. Stearns and seconded by R. Alley and signed by the President.

2. The President gave the following report for 2013–2014:

Dear Fellow Members:

Overview of 2014:

Over the calendar year now just closing, the IGS has held two major international symposiums, sponsored 4 branch meetings, published 3 issues of the *Annals of Glaciology*, published 6 issues of the *Journal of Glaciology*, presented one Seligman Crystal, conducted its first major member survey, and has continued a major self-evaluation process to determine what steps can be taken to both modernize its services to the community and to ensure that it remains a useful and vibrant entity supporting the overall purposes of its constitution. During this same time period, both of most important peers of the IGS, the EGU and AGU, have completed converting their operations to a commercial publisher (EGU as originally created, and now AGU with the partnership with Wiley Blackwell Co.). This leaves IGS as a unique entity in the world of Scientific Societies that support publication and conferences: the IGS is the only non-commercial, member driven, charitable organization constitutionally dedicated to the support of research and knowledge dissemination in glaciology and related fields. Indeed, the IGS is probably the smallest scientific society in the Earth Sciences that still retains a staff, a full time secretary general, a dedicated headquarters, and still publishes over 2500 pages a year. Despite our small size, we have continued to produce a quality product: the impact factors of the *Journal* and *Annals* rose significantly in 2014. The *Journal* broke the 3.0 barrier, rising to above 3.2, and the *Annals* rose 35% to above 2.5.

What is most important for members to realize is that the IGS faces many hard challenges as a result of the rapid evolution of the scientific publishing community expressed in terms of (a) increased pressure for open access publishing models, (b) greater emphasis on author and article citation metrics, and (c) the commercialization of our peer societies (EGU and AGU) with large volume, high tech, publishing houses.

To address these challenges, the IGS undertook a member survey to enquire of both members and recent authors of IGS publications what they regard as the "core values"

that are most important for the IGS to embody. The most widespread opinion was that the independent, non-commercial status of the IGS should be maintained. The survey also revealed that the majority of the 1080 respondents are mid-career and younger scientists who embrace the notion of strong citation metrics, fair and constructive scientific editing, a preference for paperless media, and for open access.

The IGS Council responded to these survey results with several charges to the officers, committees and staff, as well as making two statements of principle. The statements of principle were (a) that IGS publication should transform to Open Access, either Gold or Green, but preferably Gold, and (b) that modernizing steps should be taken to emphasize on-line presentation of articles published, and that the publication of paper journal issues should be phased out.

Efforts to respond to the Council's wishes have been undertaken, following the symposium held in Chamonix in June. Starting in 2015, individual memberships will be entirely on line. Authors will no longer be charged surcharges to support colour printing. Because colour charges are now supported by those who actually want paper issues, page charges are reduced by £450 and £350 on typical Journal and annals papers. For 2015, paper volumes will only be available to institutional subscribers, or to individuals willing to pay for the printing and mailing fees. There has been some dismay expressed by some of our more senior members about these changes, and this is understandable, given the relatively recent evolution of internet access to and presentation of scientific publications. We respond compassionately to these cases, and point out that we would be virtually alone in the publishing industry if we were to retain an emphasis only on the production of printed volumes.

The Secretary General and I have further started an evaluation of our web presentation of published articles. We happily note the fact that Ingenta, our web provider, has undertaken modernization that we are now able to benefit from. But we are also engaged in looking at alternatives to Ingenta, including OJS and commercial systems.

With regard to open access, the IGS remains roughly in the same place as when it started the year: the IGS offers OA Gold for a fixed price, but all other articles published are supported by the combination of page charges (sans color fees), subscription income, and member dues. Going beyond this mode of offering open access is not yet possible, as the dues and subscription income is essential in supporting the core activity of our small scientific society such as retaining our independent staff, headquarters and Secretary General.

Prospects and challenges ahead:

The primary challenge the IGS faces is with how to retain enough income to support core expenses (the independent Headquarters and professional full time Secretary

General, among other things) under an open access business plan. For the IGS to successfully transition to open access gold, approximately 50% of the estimated £2500 author processing fee on 150 papers per year would be necessary to support core expenses. Copernicus, I have been told by reliable sources, provides only ~10% of the author processing fees to the EGU to support its core activity. So this means that we cannot yet go open access gold until our papers can be edited (both scientific review expenses and post acceptance expenses), typeset, converted to a pleasing web format, and presented on line for <50% of author processing fees.

The idea of shifting to an open access green model is also being considered. But, here the model demands reduced fees for authors who are relying on subscriptions to cover production expenses. So many of the business challenges are the same.

In the meantime, while the IGS contemplates these difficulties, we are focussing on making prudent changes that are beneficial to modernization regardless of the business model to be eventually developed for the future. An example of this is our move to the reduction and eventual elimination of paper printing.

The importance of membership involvement:

Above all other considerations in the effort to modernize the IGS is the importance of having both a large, and an active (in the volunteer sense), membership base. With only one full time employee, the IGS depends on the generosity of the scientific community, both in time and in continuing to publish with us, to support our core activity and to remain the community's one remaining independent publisher.

This, your participation as members and supporters of the IGS, remains our most promising means of meeting future challenges.

I would now like to close my report and ask the Secretary General to assist me in answering your questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas R. MacAyeal, President

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

M. Siegert asked whether IGS membership was now included in the registration fee for IGs symposia. The SG responded that it non-member registration fee did and that IGS members got a discount. H. Conway asked whether the IGS newsletter *ICE* was available online and the President responded that it was. The SG further added that there were plans to make it online only and redesign to make it a fully interactive online publication rather than a simply a viewable PDF. L. Stearns asked about the difference between the Open Access Green and Gold which the President explained. Following up on that C. Shuman asked whether there was a legislation in place

requiring scientific papers to be Open Access. The responded by explaining that there was no legislation in place but some funding agencies and institutes make it a requirement.

R. Alley proposed and C. Shuman seconded, that the President's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

3. The IGS Secretary General presented the following report with the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2013 on behalf of the Treasurer, Dr I.C. Willis.

Dear fellow members, ladies and gentlemen

As our turnover in 2013 was close to the £500k threshold, our accountants undertook a full Audit this year.

The Society's finances are summarised by considering the changes from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, as shown on page 11 of the accounts. In the table, the Restricted Fund is money associated specifically with the Seligman Crystal and the Richardson Medal. The Unrestricted Funds is everything else.

Restricted Funds: *decreased* by £38 from £7,000 to £6,962 as a result of the difference between interest payment income and expenditure on engraving the two Richardson Medals that were awarded in 2013.

Unrestricted Funds: *increased* by £8,515 from £384,063 to £392,578 showing that the income to IGS largely from membership, sales of the *Journal* and *Annals*, page charges and symposia attendance slightly exceeded expenditure associated with *Journal* and *Annals* printing, publication and associated office support, and office support for activities related to organising symposia and running the Society.

Total: The Society had net resources accrued before revaluation of £5,457 resulting in the positive movement in the Society's funds of £8,477 in 2013, compared to the bigger gain of £28,092 in 2012, losses between 2008 and 2011, and a small profit of £11,327 in 2007.

Thus, I am pleased to report that the Society's finances are once more in the black, although it is slightly disappointing that we did not turn in a slightly bigger profit (comparable or bigger than last year) to help offset the periods of loss between 2008 and 2011. Since 2007 we still have a cumulative deficit of £169,212 and I believe the Society should continue to try to reduce that over the next few years by continuing to turn in a modest profit each year. Our total funds at the end of the year were £399,540 and yet our average annual expenditure for the last three years has been £526,390. I would like to see our total funds equal to our annual expenditure.

In more detail, income is itemised in notes 2-6, and expenditure is listed in notes 3 and 7-11 on pages 15-19. The accounts are presented under the headings '*Journal*, ICE & Books', '*Annals*', and '*Meetings/Symposia*' to reflect the three main activities of the Society.

Income:

Note 2. Voluntary income was £2,048 in 2013 compared to £737 in 2012. This reflects a greater number of royalties associated with 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 small profit of £632 in 2013 compared to a small loss of £365 in 2012. Over the last few years, income and expenditure associated with t-shirts, fleeces, hats, etc. have approximately matched. It would be nice if this item could be guaranteed to turn in a small profit in the future.

Note 4. Income from interest on investments fell slightly in 2013 compared to 2012: down £2,448 from £9,832 to £7,384. This reflects the lower interest rates given generally by the banks. A few higher interest investments mature in 2014 and the Society should look to reinvest some of its reserves in higher interest but low risk accounts. But the market is such that we may be hard pushed to find better than 1.5% p.a. return. The Society has suffered since the financial crash of 2008 when interest income was close to £30,000!

Note 5. Income associated with *Journal*, ICE & Books (this includes membership subscriptions, sales to non-members, libraries and other organisations, and page charges) was up by £14,194 from £276,661 in 2012 to £290,855 in 2013. Similarly, income associated with *Annals* was also up by £45,979 from £79,354 in 2012 to £125,333 in 2013. I discuss both these items further below with respect to Note 6. Conversely, income from Meetings & Symposia was down by £192,902 from £265,523 in 2012 to £72,621 in 2013. This reflects the fact that three symposia were held in 2012, including the large SCAR meeting, whereas two took place in 2013.

Note 6. *Journal* sales to libraries and other organisations were down by £8,199 from £98,107 (2012) to £89,908 (2013). This reflects a small drop in the number of libraries taking the journal and an increase in the percentage taking online only (which is cheaper than paper copy). This needs to be monitored. Conversely, income from page charges rose by £21,831 from £112,735 (2012) to £134,566 (2013). Most authors now honour page charges (quite rightly) and the rise in this item reflects that fact and the greater number of journal pages published in 2013 cf. 2012. The Open Access Fee is a new heading. One author paid this in 2013. Income in this form is likely to increase in the future. The changing balance between income from libraries, regular page charges and the Open Access Fee needs to be monitored and ideally anticipated and budgeted for.

Note 6. As mentioned above, total income from *Annals* is up by £45,979 from £79,354 in 2012 to £125,333 in 2013. The increase in *Annals* income largely reflects the greater number of *Annals* issues published in 2013 cf. 2012 (5 issues in 2013 - 1 single and 2 double; 3 issues in 2012 – all single).

Expenditure:

Note 8. The direct costs associated with editing, printing, publishing and distributing the *Journal* and *Annals* and material for Meetings / Symposia increased slightly by £8,753 from £128,964 (2012) to £137,717 (2013). This compares to a comparable

increase of £6,533 (2011-12). Printing costs are generally dropping as more and more members and libraries are subscribing to online only. An increase in the cost of printing more *Annals* volumes in 2013 cf. 2012 is offset in part by reduced costs associated with printing and posting fewer copies of the *Journal*. Wages and salaries associated with these activities increased slightly by £3,080 due to the overall increase in the number of *Journal/Annals* pages produced. [Pension costs feature here this year. They are spread, together with the salaries and NI contributions, across the 3 headings Direct Costs, Support Costs and Governance Costs, whereas last year pension costs were all put in the Support Costs category].

Note 9. The Society did not receive financial requests to sponsor workshops / meetings in 2013 with the result that no grants were awarded.

Note 10. The total support costs associated with *Journal*, *Annals* and Meetings / Symposia activity fell by £126,275 from £428,098 (2012) to £301,823 (2013). This is largely made up of the reduced costs associated with running two Symposia rather than three (a decrease of £95,202). Encouragingly, many other items are less costly this year than last year, including Computer costs, Office equipment, and Travel and subsistence costs (largely the costs of our Secretary General representing the Society at Meetings (not Symposia, which are accounted for elsewhere)).

The lower bank charges in 2013 cf. 2012 (a fall of £4,171) is largely associated with the decreased costs of credit card transactions. These were high in 2012, associated mostly with the SCAR meeting.

The provision for doubtful debts is now a trivial amount compared to the situation several years ago. In fact, the Society received £131 of the £361 of debt it has provided for in 2012!

Note 11. Governance costs associated with running the Society increased by £10,008 in 2013 compared to 2012. This is largely a result of increased salary costs (see Note 14) and the inclusion of a portion of total pension costs under this heading.

Note 14. Overall staff costs went up by £17,983 in 2013 cf. 2012. This compares with a fall in staff costs of £11,107 (2011-12) and a fall of £38,817 (2010-11). [But note that the 2010 figure includes a ~£11,000 sum associated with a redundancy payment, so the 2010-11 fall should more realistically read £27,817]. Overall, therefore, the IGS Office is running more smoothly and efficiently. The increased staff costs in 2013 cf. 2012 is due partly to extra time spent working on five *Annals* volumes in 2013 cf. three in 2012, and partly to the pay rise for the Secretary General in recognition of his 10 years of service to the IGS. This was implemented by the President as instructed by Council at its meeting in Fairbanks in 2012.

Summary

The Society's finances are in reasonable shape and much better than they have been in recent years although it is a shame we did not at least match the small surplus we had last year. We ran a very small surplus in 2013 (2% of funds). This compares to the

slightly bigger surplus in 2012 (~7% of funds), a small deficit in 2011 (~5% of funds), 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 surplus in 2007 (~2% of total funds) and a bigger surplus in 2006 (~5.5% of total funds). The net result over the past eight years is that we have been accumulating a deficit. We should continue to strive to ensure that the small surpluses in 2013 and 2012 continue and ideally grow in future years. 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. This seems to have gone some way towards helping us achieve our small surplus but more could be done.

On the income side, it is good that the Society's membership is now stable and has been at the ~950 level for two years in a row. There are certainly more potential members out there but, no doubt for several reasons, they are not joining. Perhaps the recent questionnaire survey of members and non-members may shed some light on how the Society may encourage greater membership and increase its income from this source. It is also good news that library subscriptions to the *Journal* and *Annals* are being maintained. Despite stable membership and library subscriptions, "income per volume" is dropping, on average, due to increased take up of online only copies. This reduced income is currently slightly more than offset by reduced printing and posting expenditure. The effects on the Society's budget as more members and libraries take online only will have to be managed carefully. Income from page charges is now also stable but income from the Open Access Fee is likely to increase in future as more authors are able to pay for this. Again, the effects on the Society's budget of this will have to be managed carefully. The Society should continue to invest some of its assets in high interest, low risk, medium-term (1-2 years) bank accounts.

On the expenditure side, the Society's costs have stabilised and been brought under control in recent years. It is encouraging that big items of expenditure – computing, proof reading and editing - are now rising by modest amounts or even falling slightly. Wages rose faster in 2013 cf. 2012 but this partly represents a one off change to the Secretary General's salary. Printing is another substantial cost and moving to online only would lead to savings. This option should be discussed further by Council. Organising Symposia for related organisations (e.g. SCAR) is another potential income stream to the Society although there are associated costs of course. The pros and cons of trying to run more Symposia for related organisations should also be discussed.

Ian C. Willis, Treasurer
22nd May 2014

The SG invited members to discuss the Treasurers report.

R. Hock proposed, and M. Siegert seconded, that the Treasurer's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

4. Election of auditors for 2013 accounts.

On a motion from the Secretary General, G. Aðalgeirsdóttir proposed, and C. Shuman seconded, that Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore of Cambridge be elected "Independent Inspectors or Auditors", whichever is appropriate for the 2014 accounts. This was carried unanimously.

5. Elections to Council. After circulation to members of the Society the Council's suggested list of nominees for 2014–2017, no further nominations were received, and the following members were therefore elected unanimously.

President:	Douglas R. MacAyeal
Vice-Presidents:	Frank Pattyn Shin Sugiyama
Elective Members:	Gwenn Flowers Maurine Montagnat Barbara Stenni Andres Rivera

These appointments were unanimously approved by the AGM.

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

6. Other business:

The President and the Secretary General then responded to a period of open questions and discussion covering a variety of topics. Topics discussed included: the need for IGS investments to be ethical and environmentally sound, the status of IGS membership, is it healthy and how can we make it more attractive to early career glaciologists? The progress towards Open Access was discussed as was the availability of back issues of IGS publications. Members discussed and emphasised the historical legacy of the Society. Several members raised the question as to the possibility of having some or all presentations at various IGS symposia broadcast as videos and e-posters. The discussion also matters on how the IGS could interact with other organizations in the future; such as jointly sponsoring Chapman Conferences with the AGU and bundling memberships with APECS. A question was raised whether it may be possible to get subsidises from agencies and possibly companies. The decision to offer only 'online only' membership was also discussed.

The AGM was adjourned on a motion from J. Shea and seconded by T. Scambos at 19:00 local time.