

INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

12:15, 14 July 2016, Scripps Seaside Forum, La Jolla, California, USA

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

88 persons, from 16 countries, attended of which 66 were members.

1. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, published in the 3rd issue of ICE, 2015, No 169, p. 20–24, were approved on a motion by O. Sergienko, seconded by T. Bartholomaeus and signed by the President.

2. The President gave the following report for 2015–2016:

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the IGS and dear colleagues

It is with considerable relief and satisfaction that I report to the membership that the myriad of strategic and structural changes that the IGS has contemplated for its publications over the past 3 years has finally come to fruition. The Journal of Glaciology and Annals of Glaciology are now produced as fully Open Access (gold) publications that are immediately available to the general readership, are produced at a competitive price that authors will find reasonable, and which continue to be edited at the highest standards. We now have a new partner, Cambridge University Press, helping us produce our publications at competitive rates and with technology and elements of added value that are commensurate with a venerable non-profit publishing house that is second to none in terms of scholarly eminence. The retirement of our long-serving Chief Editor, Jo Jacka, has finally come, and I wish him well on behalf of the entire IGS along with passing to him our “Thank you”. Five new Chief Editors (splitting coverage of the scientific areas covered by our publications) under the leadership of Graham Cogley (leader of the 5) is now in place to take on Jo’s responsibilities, and they do so enthusiastically and with an eye toward continuing the strive for progress that Jo has so ably represented during his tenure.

Credit for undertaking these changes to the IGS publications is spread among many generous volunteers, officers and Council members within the IGS. Foremost are Christina Hulbe, Eric Wolff and the rest of the publication committee who patiently advocated the important need for responding to the Open Access movement for many years. Among the others to be recognized for their service in assisting the IGS make its transition are the Secretary General, Magnús Már Magnússon, Vice Presidents Gwenn Flowers and Regine Hock, the Treasurer, Ian Willis, former IGS president Liz Morris and Chief Editor Jo Jacka. All the IGS office staff also deserve recognition for their help in making the transition as smooth as possible.

The changes the IGS has undertaken over the past year are likely to be remembered as some of the most significant since the inception of the IGS as an international society. The work for this change continues, as the IGS with its CUP partner will be busy transforming the archive of past publications to free access in the coming year. Other changes will include downsizing the IGS headquarters office to account for the reduced staff. (I acknowledge with great appreciation for many years of long service

the departure of Mrs. Sukie Hunter, Mrs. Rachel Brown and Mr. Craig Baxter, as well as several other associates, who have left our employ at the conclusion of the last issue of the Journal of Glaciology being produced by our in-house system.) The most important changes to come will involve the continued emphasis the IGS governance has, along with the Secretary General, on seeking ways to better serve the membership, the general community at large, and the science of glaciology.

Among the areas of IGS activity that have my attention, and which are of significant importance to serving the membership, community and science, are:

- (1) an introspection of IGS governance and the various ways in which the Council, officers and Secretary General assess proposals and reach decisions that lead to improvements and modernizations of the IGS,
- (2) an assessment of the IGS awards practices and traditions, particularly in recognition of the increasing diversity of IGS membership and scientific activity, and
- (3) the possible creation of a 3rd publication of the IGS, loosely termed a “Data Journal” for now, in partnership with the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) of the US.

The process and considerations for creating a new Data Journal have been widely discussed among the publication committee, the officers, our new Chief Editors and the NSIDC staff over the past year following the Council’s decision at its August 2015 meeting (held in Cambridge) to pursue the idea. An informal report on this process and a chance to hear membership viewpoints will be one of the elements of “new business” at this AGM meeting.

Finally it is my great pleasure to inform the membership that I and the IGS Council have decided upon a recommendation from the IGS Awards Committee to present the following people with IGS awards.

First we have decided to present an Honorary Membership to Professor Meiji Higuchi for formative contribution to the science of glaciology in Japan and in countries of the Himalaya. Professor Higuchi was a nucleating influence on Japanese glaciology during the years in which Japan rebuilt from the destruction it suffered in the mid-20th century. At a time when glaciology was considered a low-priority luxury, he initiated the earliest and longest running studies of ice and snow in the Central Alps of Japan, and initiated the long-standing participation of Japanese glaciologists in the study of ice and snow in the Himalaya. The formidable scientific accomplishments of Japan, within the context of its local snow and ice phenomena, and very importantly also within the context of Japan’s pioneering contributions to the study of snow and ice in the High Asian environment, broadly defined, owe their start to Professor Higuchi’s leadership.

Second, The IGS awards the Richardson Medal to Trevor Chinn for a lifetime of service to New Zealand’s glaciological science and for sustained contributions to research of snow and ice in New Zealand and Antarctica. Trevor is an original, intuitive scientist who leaves a lasting, positive impression on everyone who meets him. He is widely renowned for being the “stalwart of NZ glaciology” for 50 years who initiated and maintained close study of the mass balance of NZ’s many glaciers. Trevor Chinn is “New Zealand’s national treasure” when it comes to glaciology. He was its premier

care-taker in the early days, and is an energetic inspiration to the many youthful New Zealand glaciologists who are entering the community today.

Thirdly, The IGS awards the Richardson Medal to Professor Elizabeth Morris for dedicated lifetime service in the facilitation of glaciological research in the United Kingdom and worldwide for pioneering contributions to the application of new observational methodology to the science of snow and ice. The glaciological community in the United Kingdom in particular and throughout the world in general is enriched in the range of its activity and the diversity of its people and interests because of the ways in which Professor Morris stepped into leadership roles at critical times. She was the head of the ice and climate division at the British Antarctic Survey at a time when Antarctic Research stepped upward from being simply a 'curiosity' to being 'essential' in guiding the world's public policy concerns to recognize human impacts on natural processes. She was the first, and so far only, woman to be President of the International Commission on Snow and Ice and the International Glaciological Society and as such she encouraged other organizations, such as the IUGG, to strengthen their commitment to glaciological sciences.

Council has decided that there is a need to reform the Awards Committee and to take a close look at IGS awards and honours. Council has approved that, as President, I should approach Laura Koenig to become the next chair of the committee.

I close my report by indicating that I am now in my 6th year as the president of your Council, and that I look forward to working with my successor to ensure a tidy transition and continuity of IGS effort.

Douglas R. MacAyeal

President

Further to the Presidents report T. Scambos asked the membership to consider possible data articles they might be in a position to submit to a new data journal.

P. Langhorne expressed her opinion as a former chair of the Awards Committee that it was an excellent idea to take a close look at the way the IGS makes awards and to revisit the purpose of the committee.

T. Bartholomaeus raised the subject regarding the proposed data journal whether the source code used by modellers should also be put into public repositories as indeed the NSF encourages. T. Scambos responded and said that was indeed one of the considerations.

P. Langhorne proposed and U. Herzfeld seconded, that the President's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

3. The Secretary General presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of the IGS Treasurer, Dr I.C. Willis with the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Fellow members, ladies and gentlemen

In previous years, an income of > £500k required us to have a full Audit rather than a less detailed (and less costly) Independent Examination. A change in UK Government rules now has this threshold at £1million. Our income was ~ £512k and we opted for an Independent Examination this year. Throughout this report, I will make reference to the Society's fully audited accounts for the year 2015 and refer to the relevant page numbers.

The Society's finances are summarised by considering the changes from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, 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: increased by £118 from £5,947 to £6,065 as a result of the interest on investments; no Seligman Crystal was commissioned in 2015.

Unrestricted Funds: increased by £35,579 from £490,797 to £526,376 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 £36,047 resulting in the positive movement in the Society's funds of £35,697 in 2015, compared with £97,204 in 2014, £8,477 in 2013, £28,092 in 2012, and losses between 2008 and 2011.

Thus, I am pleased to report that the Society's finances are in profit for the fourth year in a row, the second biggest annual profit for over 10 years. The last four years have seen a cumulative profit of £169,470 which has now almost made up for the periods of loss between 2008 and 2011. Since 2007, we have a cumulative deficit of just £36,311. I hope the Society can close that entirely over the next year by turning in another modest profit similar to this year, for 2016. Our total funds at the end of the year were £532,441 and our average annual expenditure for the past three years has been £508,083. As I've stated in previous reports, I would like to see our total funds equal to our annual expenditure and I'm pleased to report that for the first time in 10 years we have achieved that.

In more detail, income is itemised in notes 2-7, and expenditure is listed in notes 3 and 8-10 on pages 18-22 of the accounts. 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. Donations were £92 in 2015 compared with £10 in 2014. There were no Grants received in 2015. Note Royalty income which used to feature here, now features in a separate Note 7.

Note 3. Trading activities associated with the sale of IGS merchandise turned in a very small profit of £154 in 2015 compared with the larger profit of £709 in 2014. Over the last four years, the cumulative profit associated with trading of t-shirts, fleeces, hats, etc. has been £1,130!

Note 4. Income from interest on investments increased slightly in 2015 compared with 2014: up £2,096 from £7,795 to £9,891. Income from this source has been rising steadily for the last few years showing that our choice to invest in a particular “higher interest” but still “low risk” investment account has been a good one. The particular account to invest in is reviewed each year.

Note 5. Income associated with Journal, ICE and Books was down slightly by £14,055 from £307,137 in 2014 to £293,082 in 2015. This fluctuates somewhat from year to year (e.g. it was up by £56,457 between 2013 and 2014). Some of this decrease was due to reduced membership subscriptions, mentioned below the table in Note 5, where we see that membership income dropped by £3,637 from £68,077 to £64,440. The remaining decrease associated with Journal, ICE & Books is associated with sales to non-members, libraries and other organisations, and page charges. These are discussed further below with respect to Note 6. Income associated with Annals was down slightly by £3,844 from £123,960 in 2014 to £120,116 in 2015. I discuss this further below too with respect to Note 6. Income from Meetings and Symposia was down substantially by £117,136 from £202,636 in 2014 to £85,500 in 2015. This is despite the fact that only two Symposia took place in 2014 (Hobart, Chamonix) whereas three occurred in 2015 (Kathmandu, Iceland, Cambridge). This is to some extent offset by the lower costs of running the Meetings / Symposia in 2015 cf. 2014 (see Note 8 below). As mentioned in my report last year, and as borne out again here, the Society’s Meetings and Symposia tend to make a small loss (when overheads associated with the IGS Office are factored in), and the extent of this loss depends heavily on the “success” of the meeting as measured by numbers attending and degree of sponsorship the local committee is able to muster (although I accept that there are other ways of measuring “success” of a conference). Comparing the Meetings/Symposia items of Note 5 (Income) and Note 10 (Expenditure), we see that symposia made a net loss of £10,215 in 2014 (Hobart and Chamonix) and a bigger net loss of £39,579 in 2015 (Kathmandu, Iceland & Cambridge). These differences reflect the fact that: i) the Hobart and Chamonix meetings were large and therefore relatively inexpensive due to the benefits of “economies of scale”; ii) the Iceland meeting, by contrast, was small and therefore relatively costly; iii) the Chamonix meeting attracted an EU grant €10 k to help fund some delegates; iv) many delegates attending the Kathmandu conference were charged at a concessionary rate. Thus, the IGS should try to ensure that a significant number of its Meetings / Symposia will attract large numbers and, where possible, the IGS and the local organising Committees should try to obtain external sponsorship where possible.

Note 6. Income from Journal sales to libraries and other organisations was up significantly by £13,600 from £91,348 in 2014 to £104,948 in 2015. This reflects the increased subscription rates that were implemented in 2015. For example the cost of the volume in 2014 was £357 and in 2015 was £414. Conversely, income from page charges dropped by £19,427 from £106,501 (2014) to £87,074 (2015) and the income from the Open Access Fee dropped from £34,500 (15 papers) in 2014 to £31,122 (13.5 papers) in 2015. Taken together, income to the Journal from authors dropped by

£22,805. The number of pages published dropped only slightly between 2014 and 2015 (1231 pages to 1205 pages) and much of this apparent drop in income is not real, but associated with a difference in the timing of invoicing between the two years. Of course the income stream associated with publication of the Journal will be completely different in future years now that it has gone fully Open Access and is being published in collaboration with CUP.

As mentioned above, total income from Annals is down between 2014 and 2015. This decrease in Annals income largely reflects a drop in page charge income of £15,302 and a drop in Open Access Fee income of £2,300. This reflects the smaller number of Annals issues published in 2015 cf. 2014 (4 issues in 2014; 2 issues in 2015).

Expenditure:

Note 8. This section of the accounts is presented slightly differently from previous years with “governance costs” (largely accountancy costs and the salary of our Secretary General) being added to “support costs” (largely office rental, outgoings associated with Symposia, and salaries of the Membership & Accounts Manager and the Publication Team) and apportioned across the three main areas of IGS activity as appropriate. The totals for 2014 have been adjusted with respect to how they appeared in last year’s accounts to reflect the current changes. Thus, expenditure associated with Journal, Ice and Books is up slightly by £11,888; outgoings associated with Annals are up slightly by £599; but payments associated with Meetings/Symposia were down substantially by £90,210. These are discussed in more detail below.

Note 9. Printing costs have dropped by £16,206 reflecting both the publication of two fewer Annals volumes in 2015 cf. 2014 and the fact that more members and libraries are subscribing to online only. This latter continues a trend over recent years. Online submission fees rose by £3,587. Wages and salaries associated with these activities dropped by £3,240 as one less Annals issue was produced in 2015 cf. 2014. However, proof reading and editorial costs remained the same, despite one less Annals volume being produced. Editorial fees and expenses dropped back to 2013 levels as the Chief Editor’s travel expenses dropped cf. 2014.

Note 10. The total support costs associated with Journal, Annals and Meetings / Symposia activity decreased by £72,855 from £368,104 (2014) to £295,249 (2015). This is largely associated with the decreased costs associated with running the Kathmandu, Iceland and Cambridge Meetings compared with running the Hobart and Chamonix Symposia (a decrease of £110,539). This is to some extent offset by the decreased income associated with Meetings/Symposia (£117,136) – see Note 5 above. Telephone, stationery and postage costs continue the falling trend of previous years as fewer paper copies of the Journal and Annals are posted.

The hike in Computer costs of £8,066 is due to extra costs incurred this year associated with the move to CUP, notably ~£11 k paid to the company Newgen to convert back issues of the Journal to appropriate .xml format, and ~£8 k to our (then) website hosts Ingenta. These increases are offset by a saving of ~£10 k compared to last year, as last year there had been a ~£10 k hike due to a change in the date on which prepayment for website hosting occurred cf. previous years (as mentioned in my report for last year).

Travel and subsistence costs (largely the “out of Cambridge” costs of our Secretary

General) has undergone a hike of £7,468. This represents a modest rise of £1,687 against Meetings/Symposia (understandable as there were three in 2015 cf. two in 2014) but a more substantial rise of £5,781 against the Journal, Ice and Books column, largely representing expenses of attending Branch meetings, AGU and EGU. As one of the reasons for our Secretary General attending the AGU is to participate in a Council Meeting, a saving could be made here, should the Society wish it, by investigating the option of Virtual Conferencing. This would have an added benefit of enabling the majority of Council members to participate, without the need for co-options.

Wages and salaries increased by £10,140, comprising a very small drop of £275 under the Annals heading (1 fewer Annals volume produced) a rise of £8,022 under the Meetings heading (1 more Symposium organised) and a rise of £8,266 against the Journal (largely associated with the extra work associated with the move to CUP).

A key item on this year's account sheet that was not on last years is under the heading of Termination costs. This is, of course, the costs of terminating the contracts of our three valued production staff, Craig Baxter, Sukie Hunter and Rachel Brown following our partnership with CUP. Their contribution to the Society over the years is commemorated in the IGS News Bulletin, ICE, Number 169.

Governance support costs associated with running the Society increased by £13,965 in 2015 cf. 2014. This largely reflects an increase in professional fees (associated with consultations about contract termination and the partnership agreement with CUP).

Salaries associated with Governance dropped for the first time in many years by £4,348 (although, as mentioned above, this is more than offset by the rise in the salaries under the general support costs).

Note 11. Overall staff costs went up by £4,883 in 2015 cf. 2014 (2.7%) compared to £5,696 (3.7%) in 2014 cf. 2013. This partly represents the annual increment linked to inflation (the RPI was 1% in 2015) but also slightly more hours worked by staff in the lead up to the switch of production to CUP.

Summary

The Society's finances are in good shape and continuing the trend of recent years, with the second largest annual profit since before 2007. We ran a significant surplus in 2015 (~7% of funds). This compares with a more substantial surplus in 2014 (~20% of funds), a very small surplus in 2013 (~2% of funds), a comparable surplus in 2012 (~7% of funds), and various deficits between 2008 and 2011 (ranging from ~1% to ~27% of funds). The net result over the past few years is that we have largely closed the deficit accrued over the years before that. Our funds now approximate our annual expenditure which is a healthy place in which to be. Given the uncertainties that we face over the next few years associated with the two main (and related) changes we have made – notably going fully Open Access with the Journal and Annals and partnering with CUP for their production – I suggest we wait a few years to see what the new arrangement means for the finances of the Society before we make any other major changes to the way we function, which may reduce our income or increase our outgoings.

Future accounts will be very different to those I've been involved with since I became Treasurer. Our contract with CUP means that a certain income from publication will be guaranteed and may be steady for the next few years unless we can substantially

increase the number of articles processed (which I hope we can) and CUP can market and sell more hard copies to more libraries (which might be difficult as we go OA). If so, our income will rise above the minimum we have been guaranteed by CUP. Similarly, major items of expenditure, notably wages for production staff, proof reading, and printing of the Journal and Annals (ICE will continue to be printed in house) will disappear from our accounts.

Given the uncertainties associated with the Journal and Annals income and expenditure, it will be important for the Society to improve its budgeting and to investigate further the finances surrounding running its Symposia. Preliminary analysis given in my report from last year, and referenced again above in this report, shows that our Symposia have been running at a loss for the past few years, when overheads (i.e. support costs and governance costs) are factored in. The extent of the loss depends primarily on the number of delegates at the meeting (big meetings loose less) and whether external sponsorship (for example the €10 k grant that was secured from the EU social Fund for the Chamonix meeting) is obtained.

A key support cost, notably Office Rent and associated costs, will be substantially reduced from 2017 onwards as the IGS office is rehoused within the British Antarctic Survey (currently scheduled for Sept. 2016) and this should help us move towards less loss making (preferably slightly profitable) symposia. Costs associated with the move, however, will fall within the 2016 accounts year.

Other challenges for the Society which will affect our accounts are whether we can maintain an income through a (presumably reduced) membership fee in future years. I hope substantial numbers will want to pay a subscription fee but members will need to know what the benefits of membership are now that our publications are OA, and especially once the entire backlog of the Journal and Annals are made available freely online.

We should continue to ensure that wage inflation and travel and subsistence are kept in check.

Brexit

It is very difficult (essentially impossible) for me to judge right now what the implications of the UK Brexit vote will be for the finances of the Society. I do not think we will be affected in a major way and it will depend on precisely what deal may eventually be struck by the UK government with the EU parliament and how the UK and EU economies fare over the coming months / years.

Immediate effects are that the value of the £ has dropped against the €, and even more against the \$ and certain other currencies. This will make our goods/services (membership, page charges, library subscriptions costs) appear cheaper to people and organisations outside the UK. I do not imagine this will have any major impact on the Society though. Subsistence costs will be more expensive for UK citizens abroad but cheaper for non-UK citizens coming to the UK. Perhaps the Society should organise another large Symposium in the UK soon!

If the UK economy shrinks (and especially if it goes into recession) then interest rates will likely drop even further, which will reduce our income from this stream slightly, although it is already quite low. Conversely, inflation will be lowered even more affecting the RPI and therefore annual wage increments. Again, this is not going to

affect the Society in a major way.

Down the line, depending on precisely what is negotiated between London and Brussels, UK citizens may not have access to EU funds, for example the Social Fund grant that the organisers of the recent Chamonix Conference managed to secure. More money may be available for subsidised conference attendance / travel to students from countries remaining in the EU, but not for UK students. Sorry to end on a down-note. It's generally how I've been feeling since Friday 24th June.

Ian C. Willis, Treasurer
4th July 2016

The SG invited members to discuss the Treasurers report.

J. Palais referred back to a period where it was possible for North American members to pay their dues to a person in the US. She asked whether it would be feasible to reinstate that process in light of the substantial currency fluctuations that are taking place at present. The SG responded the IGS is planning to upgrade its membership software where it should be possible to pay dues directly into £, USD and Euro accounts.

T. Bartholomaeus asked that Council look into the pricing of student membership i.e. making it affordable. The SG responded that there was a memorandum of understanding in place between the IGS and APECS in which we would instigate a joint membership. Admittedly with all that has taken place in the past year this has not been a priority in the transitional period of moving to Gold Open Access and starting collaboration with the Cambridge University Press. Council has expressed its interest in reducing membership costs overall. Council is also considering including student membership in the registration fee of conferences.

U. Herzfeld asked about printed copies of IGS publications. The SG responded that we will continue to make these available as long as it is 'economically' viable.

E.. Enderlin proposed, and M. Haseloff seconded, that the Treasurer's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

4. Election of auditors for 2015 accounts.

The Secretary General proposed the IGS remain with our current auditors, Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore, as they had been doing our accounts for several decades they knew the innards of the IGS very well.

On a motion from the Secretary General, J. Zwally proposed and T. Scambos seconded, that Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore of Cambridge be elected 'Independent Inspectors or Auditors', whichever is appropriate for the 2016 accounts. This was carried unanimously.

5. Elections to Council. After circulation to members of the Society the Council's suggested list of nominees for 2016–2019, no further nominations were received, and the following members were therefore elected unanimously.

Elective Members: Liss Andreassen

Mikhail Ivanov
Dirk Notz
Allen Pope

These appointments were unanimously approved by the AGM.

The President raised the question of whether the Council should take steps to further involve the membership in the nominating process and to encourage members to be more pro-active in putting forward nominations for officers and Council members. He then thanked the outgoing Council members and welcomed the newly elected members.

6. Other business:

The President and the Secretary General responded to a period of open questions and discussion covering a variety of topics. Topics discussed included:

T. Scambos gave a summary of the NSIDC proposal for the IGS and NSIDC to enter into a collaboration to produce a data journal. He mentioned the start-up costs that would be incurred during the first two years and commented that these were still being evaluated but there is the question of the overhead that the University of Colorado requests. He hopes that once a steady stream of submissions with associated 'Article Processing Charges' (APCs) is attained the journal would be self-sustainable.

R. Massom asked whether the articles would be peer reviewed and T. Scambos confirmed that was the intention.

These days, a paper detailing characteristics of a single glacier would not be published in the current IGS journals. The President raised the point that a data journal would open up the possibility in which articles based on a single glacier e.g. in the Himalayas, could be submitted. Then the entire constellation of such papers would be of great research value to glaciology. If we could funnel such 'single glacier' papers towards a data journal, the ensemble could be of great use, and the synthesis of many such papers could go into the Journal and Annals of Glaciology. T. Scambos also pointed out there are many projects that produce high quality data but in the view of the authors do not warrant submission to a high ranking journal. Hopefully, a data journal would capture those data, making them visible and of use to the wider public.

The President also pointed out that there are many modern glaciologists who work entirely on 'servicing' data and thus never get recognition for their contribution. A data journal would be a place where these glaciologists would get credit for their work and this might be another reason why a data journal would be of interest to the IGS as a service to its member in promoting their work and their contribution to glaciology. The President also quoted a conversation that took place at the Council meeting the previous day where the issues of 'data rescue', 'small data sets' and 'long tail data' were suggested as potential contributions to a data journal.

J. Zwally commented that he thought this was a good thing for the community regardless of specific individual concerns to motivate the IGS for stepping forward.

The President then raised an issue which could be considered detrimental to the proposal, i.e. the cost. If we were to contribute substantial amounts to the start-up of a

data journal it would seriously impede the IGS's capability of reducing membership fees in the immediate future. In effect we would be asking members to contribute a part of their membership dues towards a project they may not necessarily use or contribute to.

But this would have to be a decision based on what is best for the glaciological community and what furthers the constitutional role of the IGS in promoting communication for this community and its members.

A discussion followed about the review process for such a journal. A question was raised as to whether we could rely on volunteers to do part of the work in producing a data journal. IGS Chief Editor G. Cogley said that such volunteer time would be much better spent reviewing. It was also pointed out that there were two criteria involved in the review. One criteria would be handled by data experts and the other criteria would be run by the IGS Editorial Board who would have to come up with criteria for what constitutes an acceptable publication with a stamp of peer review on it.

A question from the floor asked why there is a need for a new data journal of why should the IGS be involved? The President responded based on information from T. Scambos that 'other' data journals are so broad that it is very difficult for users to find articles in those journals. T. Scambos added that although it is possible to use google scholar to search for such data articles, readers would need to be aware that there are such articles out there. With a glaciological data journal the data contributors would be aware that their data would be seen by the people most likely to be interested. The idea is also that it would be possible to coordinate publications between the Journal of Glaciology and the new data journal.

It was also pointed out that papers produced by undergraduate and master's students are often not sufficiently developed for mainstream research journals. They often describe technique and present new innovative data, yet with little research interpretation of the data. Such a data journal could possibly be a good vehicle for those contributions and the authors would get recognition for them. It would also allow for such data to be available to the community rather than be forgotten sitting on a dusty library shelf.

The new IGS Chief editor pointed out that everyone seemed to be in agreement that a data journal was a good idea but he also pointed out that the consensus seems to be that a data paper is somewhat of lesser value than an analysis or research paper. He thus suggested that people go away with a quotation by Lord Kelvin 'If you cannot measure something then your understanding is of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind'

No other items were raised.

The President asked for a motion to adjourn the AGM.

The AGM was adjourned on a motion from P. Langhorne and seconded by A. Robel at 13:05 PDT.