

INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

29 July 2004, Hoffman Hall, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.

The President, Dr Elizabeth Morris, was in the Chair.
56 members from 12 countries were present.

1. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, published in the *ICE*, 2003, No 1132/133, p. 9–11, were approved on a motion by R. Bindschadler, seconded by K. Hutter and signed by the President.

2. The Presidents gave the following report for 2003-2004:

Ladies and gentlemen,

The role of the IGS is to serve the glaciological community, and in particular the members of the Society, by stimulating and facilitating research. We do this by organising conferences, publishing the *Journal*, *Annals* and *Ice* and supporting other organisations with a glaciological interest by co-sponsorship of activities. It is my duty to report to you, on behalf of Council, on how we have progressed in these tasks over the last year.

You will recall that at the Milan meeting Council decided on a plan of action to modernise our publishing activities. We decided that it was essential that from now on the *Journal* and *Annals* should be available on the Web and that members would appreciate a service which included on-line submission of papers and on-line tracking of their progress through the system. It was also clear that we could improve the general efficiency of the Office by upgrading our infrastructure. So we embarked on a programme of change.

Of course there was a risk involved. As you know, publication of the *Journal* and *Annals* had fallen behind schedule. The first part of the *Journal* for 2003, that is Number 164 of Volume 49, did not appear until November last year. Likewise *Annals* 35, with papers from the Kangerlussuaq conference on Ice Cores and Climate in 2001, did not appear until 2 years later. It could be argued that last year was not the moment to divert staff energies into a modernisation programme. But of course these delays were symptoms of the underlying problem that Council had identified, and that is why we decided to take action swiftly.

I am very pleased to tell you that because of the enthusiasm and dedication of the Office staff we have been able to carry through the modernisation programme without losing any ground on the publication side. In the steady state we need to be able to produce 4 numbers of the *Journal* and 2 volumes of the *Annals* per year. In the year since the last Council meeting we achieved this by the skin of our teeth! We published Numbers 164 and 165 of Volume 49 in November 2003, Number 166 in February this year and Number 167 is in the post. We also published *Annals* 36, containing selected papers from the meeting in Yakutat, Alaska, U.S.A., on Fast Glacier Flow and *Annals* 37, with selected papers from our International Symposium on Physical and Mechanical Processes in Ice in Relation to Glacier and Ice-Sheet Modelling, held in Chamonix.

So now we have our new infrastructure in place and all we need to do is to step up the production rate for a while. If in the next two years we can publish 10 rather than 8 parts of the *Journal*, plus our normal 4 *Annals* volumes, we will be back on course. I think this is quite possible given the new systems we have in place and the extra staff we have employed on a temporary basis.

What progress have we made with the two key objectives for the year?

First of all, I am pleased to tell you that all new publications now appear on the Web as soon as they are shipped to members. IGS members can access the *Journal* online at ingentaselect.com. Volumes of *Annals* are also available on-line, free of charge to those that attended the associated symposium or have subsequently purchased a printed copy. If your library subscribes to the *Annals* and the *Journal* you can also access the publications free of charge using the library access system. We will be putting back issues (from 1999 onwards) on-line next year.

Secondly, we have made considerable progress with a system for on-line submission of papers. As you know an on-line system designed by Doug MacAyeal and Young-Jin Kin has been used for this symposium and has proved most successful. We intend to look carefully at the system this autumn and, if feasible, develop it so that we can have on-line submission available for both the *Journal* and *Annals* from now on.

Over the past year the Office have taken a close look at the production process and have identified several ways in which it can be improved. These include moving to on-screen rather than paper editing, making full use of the powerful features of our typesetting software 3B2, and doing page makeup within the office. The Production Team have also found time to redesign the appearance of our publications to give a fresh modern look, while keeping some of the traditional features such as size and colour of the covers. The first number of the new-look *Journal* will appear this autumn. The first new-look *Annals* will be the proceedings of this symposium and should appear just over a year from now.

Jo Jacka, the new Chief Editor, and the Publications Committee led by Christina Hulbe have been thinking hard about how we might improve the editorial side of our publication system. Clearly it will help to have a good tracking system so that we can pounce on reviewers or authors who are not responding in a reasonable length of time. Authors can also help by following the instructions for submission; we are going to get tougher with those who don't! But the fundamental need is for knowledgeable, efficient and fair reviewers. We are deeply grateful to all those of you who have undertaken this task in the past and hope that you will continue in the future.

Before I leave the subject of publications let me just mention that three issues of *Ice* were published last year. We have just published a double issue, 132 and 133, that should be on its way to you at this moment. We are planning to make the publication of *Ice* more regular in the future, but this will require a regular flow of national reports. I would like to encourage all National Correspondents to try to ensure that reports on national activities are provided at regular two-year intervals. The name of your National Correspondent is published in *Ice* and on our website, so please contact him if you feel too much time has elapsed since the last time your work was profiled.

What have we in store for next year? We have had a successful meeting here in Portland, with over 50 papers submitted for *Annals* 40. We are expecting final versions of all the accepted papers in Cambridge by mid-September, for publication in 2005. Later this year, we will be receiving papers from the International Symposium on Arctic Glaciology for review, editing and subsequent publication in *Annals* 42. 77 papers have been submitted. We are also planning to produce a special volume of selected papers from the ITASE/ISMASS Expert Group meeting in Bremen with Gordon Hamilton as Chief Scientific Editor. This will be *Annals* 41. Jo Jacka is attending the meeting and will ensure that the standards of the IGS are upheld.

In 2005, we will be back to hosting two meetings: an International Symposium on High-Elevation Glaciers and Climate Records, to be held in Lanzhou, China, in September; and an International Symposium on Sea Ice, to be held in Dunedin, New Zealand in December. We already have commitments for 2006, but anyone wanting to propose a meeting in 2007 or later should contact the Secretary General as soon as possible.

In summary, the activity of IGS remains very high. Given the competition from other journals, we do need to work hard in the next couple of years to ensure that the *Journal* and *Annals* are attractive options for publication of glaciological papers, but with your help I think it can be done.

It only remains for me to thank the Secretary-General, Magnús Már Magnússon and Linda Gorman our Membership Secretary, who are both here in Portland, for all their hard work and dedication. On behalf of Council I also thank Christine Butler, the Production Manager and her team – Craig Baxter, Ann Leeding and Ken Moxham, plus the newcomers Joan Keating, Alison Woollatt and Liz Pasteur for their enthusiastic response to the challenging work programme we set them last year.

I will now pass you over to the Treasurer who will report on the financial affairs of the Society.

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

M. Jeffries discussed the need for the Society to make an effort to bring in more younger members and the need to change the profile of the disciplines of the Society in an effort to increase the membership base. He asked the members present to consider and bring forward ideas of what the Society could do to keep younger members. Often they join as students but drift away as they finish their studies. An idea was put forward to have a competition for the younger attendees at the Societies symposia. This had been successfully done at the 2000 Sea Ice symposium in Fairbanks, Alaska. He suggested that this should be made a regular feature at IGS symposia. K. Hutter reminded members this used to be done, why it was discontinued was unknown to him.

M. Meier proposed, and K. Hutter seconded, that the President's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

3. The Treasurer, Dr. J.A. Heap, presented the following reported with the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003.

"The state of the Society's finances is best summarised by considering the changes from 31 December 2001 to 31 December 2002 in the following funds, as shown on page 13 of the accounts:

Seligman Fund: increased from £7143 to £7392 as a consequence of accrued interest of £249;

Contingencies Fund: maintained at the same level of £12,684;

Annals Fund: increased from £60,437 to £78,952 as a result of accrued interest and transfer of funds set against expenditure;

Publications Fund: decreased from £26,090 to £25,443, as a consequence expenditures set against sales, royalties and interest accrual;

Future Volumes: decreased from £44,384 to £33,976 reflecting late payments for *Annals* 37;

Accumulated Fund: decreased from £378,532 to £377,445 consequent upon a loss in that account for the year of £1087, this included a profit of £1900 in the value of investments due to an adjustment to market value (page 12, note 7). There was a substantial increase in expenditure due to the increase in staff and the overlap of the outgoing and incoming SG, income from memberships remained the same and library sales were up by £5903 and that from page charges was up from last year by £16,681 regaining the level as it was in 2002. In 2002 we also received the £75,500 legacy from Loris Seligman, which of course was not repeated in 2003. We also incurred substantial cost in the year due to the purchase of IT equipment and the refurbishing of the IGS office in Cambridge.

In 2003, the Society published 618 pages in the *Journal of Glaciology* and 716 pages in the *Annals of Glaciology*. In 2002 the figures were 642 for the *Journal* and 1056 for the *Annals*, a year with two issues of the *Annals*. Although we had a decrease in published pages we actually had an increase of £16,681 in page-charge revenue, almost half the total revenue received from members' dues. This indicates how dependent we are on fluctuations in this income and how particularly grateful we must be to all those authors who have been both able and willing to support the Society in this way.

May I, again, make a plea to members of the Society to do all in their power to increase the membership. Although we are continuing to receive new members these are now balanced by those retiring or moving to other fields. Our target is a base of at least 1000 and there is still some way to go. Please encourage your colleagues and students to join. I believe they will find it is extremely good value for money. Also, please ensure that libraries in any institutions over which you have influence either maintain their subscriptions or take one out. "

M. Jeffries asked if it would be possible to show graphically the trend in the various funds over the past few years at future AGMs. He also asked if it would be possible to use the Accumulated fund for the further benefit of the members. The Treasurer responded by explaining the reserves policy of the Society as decided by Council. He called for members to consider the policy and convey their opinion to members of the Council. The Society is not just a publishing house but a professional Society that looks after the interests of its members.

M. Brugman expressed her opinion that the Society provides excellent value for money but suggested that the IGS take steps to ensure that its presence on the web is recognised by whoever cites its publication or refers to data presented in articles in the *Journal* or the *Annals*. This should be done in a way that it would be obvious to whoever looked at the citation that the it originally came from an IGS publication. This would raise the awareness of senior management and make it easier for younger scientists to obtain permission and funding to attend the various functions of the Society.

A member asked if it was possible to have a second type of membership that would allow a member to have electronic, not a paper copies of the Journal.

The President thought that this would be difficult to organize but that Council should discuss the possibility.

M. Jeffries cited a survey done by Arctic Institute of North America on electronic v. paper publication. The survey indicated that members were happy with both types of publication. The survey also indicated that if paper copies were no longer available it would result in a decline in membership.

A suggestion was put forward from the floor that the membership be categorized by area of expertise rather than country of residence. The SG explained that this information was indeed maintained by the Society.

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

4. Election of auditors for 2003 accounts.

J. Heap proposed, and M. Jeffries seconded, that Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore of Cambridge be elected auditors for the 2004 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 2004–2007, no further nominations were received, and the following members were therefore elected unanimously.

Vice-Presidents:	Atsumu Ohmura
Treasurer	John Heap
Elective Members(4):	Olga Solomina Patricia Langhorne Vincent Morgan Frank Pattyn

These appointments were unanimously approved by the AGM.

6. Other business:

M. Jeffries discussed the importance of the Society and the considerable impact it had on research and researchers. The Society needs to uphold this and thus needs to increase its profile e.g. by using the IGS web site more to reflect the activities undertaken by its members. The IGS constitution does explicitly state as one of its goals is to facilitate and increase the flow of glaciological ideas and information. He also expressed his opinion that the Society should get involved more in educational issues. One of the goals of the Society is to stimulate interest in and encourage research into the scientific and technical problems of snow and ice in all countries. He also raised the question whether the IGS should be involved in "Education Outreach" e.g. on the web.

J. Heap expanded on the fact that it is easy to create a product but quite often difficult to get people to use it. Any such effort must be prepared thoroughly for it to be of use to members and the general public.

T. Youngberg, of the local organizing committee, pointed out that an "Outreach" effort had in fact been made by inviting local organisation to join the meeting at a special rate and for specific sessions in an effort to increase the profile of glaciology in the local community.

The AGM was adjourned on a motion from R. Bindschadler, seconded by M. Sharp.