

INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

8 August 2006, Bristol–Myers Squibb Lecture Theatre
(Lecture Theatre 1), Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge, UK.

The President, Professor Atsumu Ohmura, was in the Chair.
66 members from 20 countries were present.

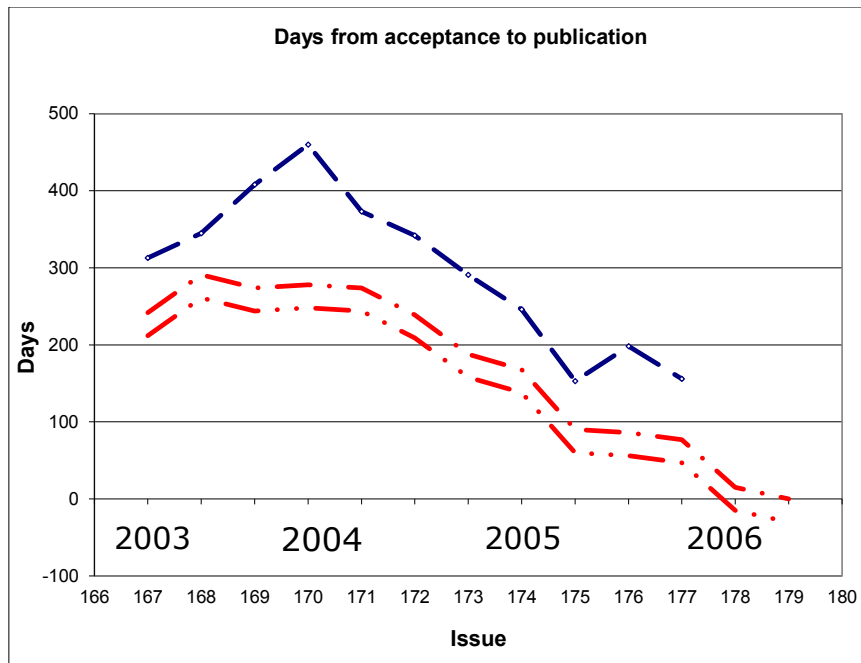
1. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, published in ICE, 2005, No 137-138, p. 14–16, were approved on a motion by R.J. Braithwaite, seconded by K. Steffen and signed by the President.

2. The President gave the following report for 2005-2006:

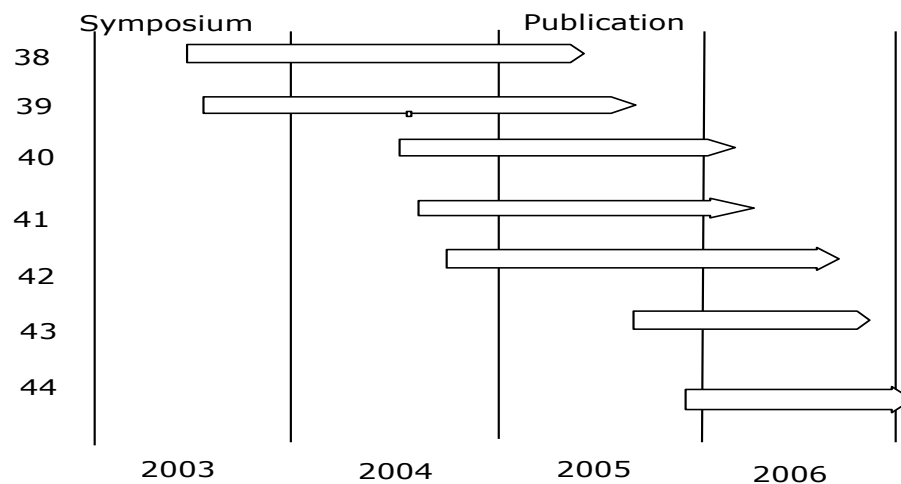
Ladies and gentlemen,

I must begin the report with a sad reminder that Dr. John Heap, treasurer of the society for more than 30 years, deceased on March 8th of this year. He was Administrator of the British Antarctic Territory and the Director of Scott Polar Research Institute. Among his many accomplishments I would like to mention his role during the late 1970s negotiating the protection of Antarctic environment, which resulted in the 1982 Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). I would like to ask you to observe a moment of silence now for John Heap.

I am very happy to report that the Society had a very successful year. It is an interesting coincidence that we can celebrate this occasion in a town where the society was founded exactly 70 years ago. The most important development is the shortening of the time between the acceptance and the publication of journal articles. This has also closed the gap between the designated and the actually appearing day of the journal. My predecessor put this as the highest priority, and the Chief Editor, Secretary General and the production team have invested an enormous effort to achieve this result, including the modernization of the editing machineries. The time required from acceptance to actual publication was drastically shortened during the last year, so that potential contributors can now regard the journal as one of the most attractive means for publication. The following figure illustrates this. The top line shows the time between acceptance and publication, while the area between the two bottom lines indicates the variation in the time between designated and actual publication; the middle line indicates designated publishing times in Jan., March, June and Sept. whereas the lowermost line indicates publishing dates in March, June, Sept. and December.



The Annals also made an enormous stride to shorten the time between the symposium and the publication. The following diagram shows the time of the symposium and the publication for the last seven issues. The ordinate is the volume number..



In the case of most recent issues from the symposia in Lanzhou and Dunedin, the proceedings will be out little more than one year after the symposium. This is not an easy accomplishment, because the publication is always determined by the return of the very last proofread and corrected article. Realizing these accomplishments I feel it in order for us to get to know personally those in the publication team at the head-quarters. (The production team was individually introduced)

To further close the gap between acceptance and publication web-posting (as soon as papers are proofed) will start soon. This is at the top of the list of tasks in the remaining year. Likewise, electronic submission and review will shortly be introduced. Especially with respect to the electronic review process, this is a useful addition and by no means a replacement of other means of review possibilities. Electronic access to back issues will be further extended to the older volumes. The simplification of access to the current issues is imperative and will be implemented, also before the end of the year. A fall in the submissions in 2005 was reported last year. The Chief Editor Jo Jacka, however, reported that the number recovered in 2006. The fluctuation of that magnitude is not unusual for many academic journals. The following table presents the number of total submissions of glaciological articles and their relative weight among all papers.

	J. Glaciol.	JGR-C	JGR-D	JGR-F	Gletscherk.
2003	60	33	34	4	
2004	61	39	31	10	13
2005	72	20	18	19	
2006	30	13	21	21	
Total	223	105	104	54	13
%	100	8	15	27	100

The table shows that J. Glaciol. has a combined weight of JGR Series C and D. The appearance of Series F, Earth Surface did not reduce the published articles in the journal. The Chief Editor reports this year that the earlier decreasing trend in submission of mathematically oriented articles in 2005 has reversed. This is due to the efforts of the Chief Editor and the Secretary General. It is, therefore, with a sense of relief that I report that Dr. Jacka and the three scientific editors whose terms are coming to an end this year have agreed to serve for another term in the same functions.

At the headquarters a slight change in procedures took place. The Secretary General introduced the changes mainly to accelerate publication as discussed earlier. The introduction of a new accounting software package, SAGE enabled the team to better track financial matters, helping the organization of symposia and proceedings. Another very happy development is the successful negotiation by the Secretary General to cut the printing cost with Page Bros in Norwich by 50%.

Now, looking at the science of glaciology let me point out a fundamental problem that is not easy to solve. We are missing basic glaciological information, such as glacier surface and particularly ice volume. As these quantities are rapidly changing, it is embarrassing that we do not have a reliable set of data representing the present time. The World Glacier Inventory is complete only to 36%. With simplified inventory data 47% of the glacier surfaces are covered. There is an enormous geographic difference in the degree of completion. In some countries, the inventory has been completed for some time, so that future changes in glaciers can be compared to the glacier state of the late 20th Century. In other countries with substantial glaciated areas, not even 20% of the existing surface has been covered. This problem is widespread in all fields of science today. Whether it is inventory work of the main features of glaciers, or determining a molecular structure of some parts of large molecules, or monitoring a slow change in radiation in the atmosphere or mass balance of glaciers, it requires a certain body of qualified workers to be engaged in a methodologically similar work

year after year. It is difficult to write a paper frequently with a part of the accomplishment, until the time comes when it is finally possible to grasp a global situation or discover an important change in nature. We are aware that without the painstaking and hidden works continued for decades, we will never understand where we are and what might happen in the future. How can we push the entire front of knowledge forward without suffering from a geographical bias, and credit these unnoticed dedicated workers in a fair manner.

International Glaciological Society has served the cryosphere community during the last 70 years. We must work so that this tradition will continue. As this year is the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the society, the coming year 2007 is the 60th anniversary of the Journal of Glaciology. These are important and valuable occasions and landmarks in this changing world. Equally important is the excellence in the scientific content of works that will be created by glaciologists, and this is totally dependent on individual ability and effort. International Glaciological Society is happy and privileged to be able to serve the community further in the future.

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

M. Jeffries raised the issue of diversity of the Journal and what could be done to increase it. He suggested the IGS should adopt a more aggressive approach in an effort to solicit more diverse submissions. He suggested that Council might set targets to that effect. V. Little suggested the IGS might consider the occasional special issues focused on a particular topic.

M. Jeffries also asked about the availability of Council minutes to ordinary members. He suggested that the general membership deserved to know more about what Council discusses and decides. Openness and accountability are important. The Secretary General responded by saying that some issues that Council discussed are confidential in nature but Council might perhaps consider making a shortened version of its minutes available to members.

F. Navarro asked if it would be possible to make reviewers comments available electronically in an effort to minimize the time spent on reviews. The SG responded that the IGS is looking into setting up an online submission system which would incorporate such a feature. The Journal Chief Editor responded by quoting his report to Council in which it is shown that on average, the greatest delay at present is the time taken by authors to respond to reviewers.

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

3. The Appointed treasurer Dr. I.C. Willis, presented the following reported with the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2005.

"My name is Ian Willis and I was appointed treasurer by the Council to bridge the gap until this AGM when members of the Society have the opportunity to elect a new Treasurer. The nominations committee put forward my name as the new Treasurer and I accepted the nomination. I am very grateful for the trust and confidence that the nominations committee has placed in me. I realize that if I am elected, it will be a difficult task to follow in the footsteps of John Heap, although I will do my best.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm a Senior Lecturer based here at the Scott Polar Research Institute and have been a member of the IGS since 1986. SPRI is the official address of the IGS and this will make it easy for me to follow the matters of the Society and oversee

its operations.

This is the second Financial Statement of the IGS to reflect the implementation of new accounting procedures brought in by the SAGE accounting software. This year (2005) shows figures corresponding to the numbers presented in last year's (2004) Financial Statement.

The state of the Society's finances is best summarised by considering the changes from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005, as shown on page 7 of the accounts. In the table, the Accumulated Fund refers largely to costs associated with running the Journal, the Designated Fund refers to costs associated with running Symposia and the Annals, and the Restricted Fund is money earmarked specifically for costs associated with the Seligman Crystal.

Restricted Fund: increased from £7642 to £7907 as a consequence of accrued interest of £265;

Designated Fund: increased by £23,670 from £152,464 to £176,134 due largely to delayed production and printing costs associated with publication of Annals 40-42. [N.B. Income from libraries received, but expenses not incurred].

Accumulated Fund: decreased by £42,164 from £397,076 to £354,912 due mostly to increased production and printing costs of the Journal (more pages published). This more than offset the small profit of £2035 in the value of investments due to an adjustment to market value (note 7, page 13).

Total: Society made a net loss of £18,229 in 2005 compared to a net gain of £21,290 in 2004.

In more detail, income itemised in note 2, page 10 and expenditure listed in notes 3 & 4, page 11.

Income:

Membership dues dropped by £7,903 and Journal sales were down by £7,289. Sales of Journal reprints by authors not paying page charges fell by £2,018 although page charge income rose by £25,533 (N.B. authors paying page charges receive 100 reprints automatically for no extra charge]. N.B. Discounts and refunds at bottom of page refer to 10% discount given to agents selling Journal and Annals to libraries.

Expenditure:

Big expenses are associated with printing and publishing the Journal and Annals. Increase of £107,739 compared to 2004. This reflects extra pages published (see below). Other major expenditure comes from the costs of supporting the Journal and Annals. IGS Office published 5 *Journal* issues and two *Annals* volumes and worked on two more *Journal* issues and two *Annals* volumes. Salaries and NI contributions appear to have fallen by £16,599 c.f. 2004, whereas telephone, postage and stationary costs appear to have increased by £18,892. However, some of these discrepancies will be due to better internal accounting procedures adopted in 2005 c.f. 2004. Costs of running symposia were higher in 2005 c.f. 2004. Due to relatively expensive conferences in NZ and China, but also due to delay in payment to Davos for expenses incurred at that meeting in 2004. In addition, provision has been made for doubtful debts amounting to £11,000. This is predominately made up of page charges not being

honoured.

Finally, under Management and Administration are costs of IGS office undertaking activities not specifically associated with running the Journal or Annals. Saving of £8,674 cf. 2004, mostly due to high professional fees in 2004 associated with setting up of SAGE accounting software.

Journal and Annals

In 2005, the Society published 770 pages in the *Journal of Glaciology* (3&4 of 2004 and 1, 2 & 3 of 2005) and 1019 pages in the *Annals of Glaciology* (38 & 39). In 2004 the figures were 444 for the *Journal* and 416 for the *Annals*.

This reflects a reorganization of the production procedures, which have considerably improved the efficiency of the production process so that the Society has been able to catch up on its backlog of printing as well as reduce the time lag between submission and publication. This continues to be a major priority for the IGS Office. As of this week we have already published 475 pages of the *Journal* this year and we are expecting to double that number by the end of it. In addition we have already published almost 900 pages of the *Annals* and are planning to publish another 360 pages this year.

Summary

The Society's finances are in fairly good shape but we shouldn't be complacent. We ran at a loss this year (~3% of total funds) c.f. a slightly greater profit last year (~4% of total funds). It is important for us to maintain our inputs as well as operate carefully and efficiently to minimise our costs.

On the inputs side, we are particularly grateful to all those authors who have been both able and willing to support the Society by the provision of page charges. If you can, please build page charges into your grants in order to support the Society. Also, I would also 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 beginning to fall behind those who are 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.

On the outputs side, I believe that Magnus is increasing the efficiency of the IGS office and he deserves our help and encouragement and support for what he is doing on our behalf. Under his management, we have now caught up in the publication of the *Journal of Glaciology* and are working hard at catching up with the *Annals of Glaciology*. It is also a pleasure to announce that we have been able to negotiate a reduction in printing costs with our printers, PageBros, of about 50 %. These changes took place this year and will thus be reflected in the Financial Statements for 2006.

Ian C. Willis, Treasurer (appointed)
22nd August 2006"

S. Anandakrishnan said that the IGS should not compromise the quality of its publications in an effort to reduce costs. At present membership of the IGS and attendance of its symposia provides very good value.

M. Jeffries suggested that something be done to encourage members to make a bequest to the IGS in their wills. Such fund-raising by not-for-profits is not an unusual practice. For the IGS, it would be a way to generate income that could be used for special purposes above and beyond the day-to-day operation of the Society, e.g., student travel grants, student prizes, education programs, etc.

C.W.M. Swithinbank proposed, and S. Anandakrishnan seconded, that the Treasurer's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

4. Election of auditors for 2003 accounts.

On a motion from the appointed Treasurer, I.C. Willis, C.W.M. Swithinbank proposed, and S. Anandakrishnan seconded, that Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore of Cambridge be elected auditors for the 2005 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 2005–2008, no further nominations were received, and the following members were therefore elected unanimously.

Vice-President:	Matthew Sturm
Treasurer:	Ian C. Willis
Elective Members (4):	Jonathan Bamber Christina L. Hulbe Pramod K. Satyawali Thorsteinn Thorsteinsson

These appointments were unanimously approved by the AGM.

6. Other business

No other business was motioned

The AGM was adjourned on a motion from C.R. Bentley, seconded by T.H. Jacka.