

INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday 23 June at 11:00, Hokkaido University Conference Centre, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan.

The President, Dr Eric Brun, was in the Chair.

58 persons from 13 countries were present of which 46 were IGS members.

1. The previous AGM's minutes

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, published in ICE, 2009, No 150, p. 3–7, were approved on a motion by T.H. Jacka seconded by A. Ohmura and signed by the President.

2. The President's report

The President gave the following report for 2009–2010:

Dear members, Ladies and Gentlemen

The International Glaciological Society has completed its 74th year. It's a great pleasure for me to present the report on the Society's activities for the past year.

I will start this report with an outlook of our publication activities.

In 2009, we published 6 issues of the Journal of Glaciology, all in a timely fashion. The last issue of 2009 was published online in mid December. We published 1115 pages in total in 2009, compared with 963 pages in 2008. And 2010 looks like it will be a substantial volume, as well, with the commemorative 200th issue of the Journal closing the year.

At the time of this AGM, we have published the first 2 issues of 2010 and the 3rd issue is well advanced.

Volume 51 of the Annals is also well on track. We are due to publish 3 issues in 2010 and we have now published 2 of those, Annals 51(54) (Snow and Avalanches) and 51(55) (Glaciology in the International Polar Year). The papers for Annals 51(56) (Microbiological Processes in the Cryosphere) have started to come in and we should have completed that issue before the end of the year. Annals 51(56) is the first Annals issue that does not have a symposium 'associated' with it. We are hoping to make this a regular feature of the Annals.

In 2009 we again saw a record number of submissions for the Journal. This is a continuation of the trend, we have seen in the last few years. In 2006, we had a record 122 submissions. In 2007 we surpassed this record by 25, 147 submissions in total. In 2008 we had 153 submissions. In 2009 we just beat the previous year's record by 2 submissions. This year, we are almost 2 months ahead of last year with 84 submissions so far. The challenge remains to ensure that the Society's publications, especially the Journal, are seen as the best place to publish.

Moreover, despite the increasing number of submissions, the time from submission to publication continues to decrease, while maintaining a very high standard regarding the scientific and editing quality of the Journal of Glaciology.

For the continuous efforts which this success is based on, I would like to acknowledge our Chief Scientific Editor, T.H. Jacka, its editorial team, the Publication Committee, chaired by Christina Hulbe, the IGS Production Manager, Christine Butler, the IGS staff in Cambridge and our SG, Magnus Mar Magnusson.

We are now in our second year of the *Annals of Glaciology* under the auspices of the new *Annals* editorial policy. We submit all our *Annals* issues to Thomson and have requested that the *Annals* be included in the Science Citation Index. It is a very important issue for the future of the *Annals*, but we are still waiting Thomson's decision.

The online submission system for the Journal is finally live. After a necessary time of adjustments, things seem to be working fine. The next goal is to make the *Annals* live before too long. The fact that the Journal and the *Annals* have the same format will make things easier.

We have completed the 2009 publication of ICE and are hoping to be up to date by the end of 2010. ICE has also grown in size considerably – what used to be a 15 to 20 pages newsletter is now 40 to 70 pages long. We are hoping to move to an online ICE in the near future.

During the last AGM in Newcastle, July 2009, I reported the concern of the IGS Council regarding the decrease in the IGS membership. Our Secretary General put this issue at the top of his priorities. It looks as if we have been able to stem the decline in our membership. In fact we have more paid up members so far this year, than we have had in several years. We note a surge of new members, as can be seen by the list that appears in every issue of ICE. We need to continue to press former members to rejoin.

The Council, which met on Monday and Tuesday, paid a particular attention to the Treasurer's report. The Society's finances are still in fairly good shape but we ran a not insubstantial deficit in 2009 compared with a small deficit in 2008, a small profit in 2007 and a bigger profit in 2006. This year's accounts are, in many respects, a truer reflection of the health of the Society than previous years.

The basic problem is that our income has dropped by 19% and our expenditure has increased by 14%, compared with the previous year.

On the expenditure side, the Society should be somewhat encouraged that many of the items were "one off" payments in 2009. The Council is confident regarding the capacity of the IGS to regain the equilibrium in our budget in the coming years.

We are now in our second year of using the new membership management software. It has substantially helped in the running of the Society and simplified several tasks within the office, with the online membership renewal and symposium registration system; it has made things considerably easier. I would like to inform that we will have to make some organisational changes within the office in line with the introduction of the new software.

The staff in the office now numbers eight people. The staffing amounts to approximately two and a half full time positions in production, two positions in administration and one position in membership/subscriptions. The pension plan is now fully implemented.

The IGS sponsored the International Symposium on 'Glaciology in the International Polar Year' at the University of Northumbria in July 2009.

We co-sponsored a conference on 'Ice and Climate; a view from the South' in February 2010. It was held in Valdivia, Chile and was very successful. We are hoping to have a fully sponsored IGS symposium in South America in the near future.

We have just returned from the 'Sea Ice in the Physical and Biochemical System' symposium held in Tromsø, Norway. It was attended by almost 200 people and was very successful. The local organizers deserve the credit for the success.

The symposium 'Snow, Ice and Humanity in a Changing climate', here in Sapporo, is already a very great event. We all enjoy the quality of the programme, the outstanding organisation and the friendship of our hosts.

The registration for the Byrd Polar Center celebratory symposium 'Earths Disappearing Ice; Drivers, Responses and Impacts' is underway and going well.

In addition we are working on symposia in San Diego (2011), Helsinki, Paris and Alaska in 2012, South America (2013), Canada, 2013–14 and Australia in 2014. We are also planning a meeting in China in 2015 and a symposium in Boulder in 2016.

I would like to end this report by announcing that Council decided to award Dr Tim H. Jacka a Richardson Medal. The Richardson Medal is awarded, from time to time, in recognition of outstanding service contributions to the International Glaciological Society and to glaciology.

Jo Jacka is awarded "For tireless personal service in the Society's missions to expeditiously publish scientific articles of the highest quality and to organize symposia that both broaden glaciological knowledge and international participation in glaciological research". Jo is present at this AGM and I would present him with the medal.

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

No questions were raised

D. MacAyeal proposed, and A Ohmura seconded, that the President's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

3. The Treasurer's report

The Secretary General, on behalf of the treasurer Dr I.C. Willis, presented the following report with the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2009.

The state of the Society's finances is best summarised by considering the changes from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009, as shown on page 11 of the accounts. In the table, the Restricted Fund is money earmarked specifically for costs associated with the Seligman Crystal. The Unrestricted Funds is everything else.

Restricted Funds: increased very slightly from £8993 to £9059 due to the accrued interest of £66. No crystals were manufactured during 2009.

Unrestricted Funds: decreased by £122,565 from £566,249 to £443,684 showing that the income to IGS largely from membership, sales of the Journal and Annals, page charges and symposia attendance exceeded 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 £123,603 resulting in the negative movement in the Society's funds of £122,499 in 2009 compared to a much smaller loss of £4,837 in 2008, a net profit of £11,327 in 2007 and a profit of £29,799 in 2006.

This gradual slide from profit to loss over the last 4 years should be of concern to the Society and one that it must try to reverse over the next few years, as continued loss is clearly unsustainable. Compared to 2008, the Society's income fell by £72,021 (19%) and its outgoing expenditure went up by £52,659 (14%).

In more detail, income is itemised in notes 2-5, pages 15-16 and expenditure is listed in notes 6-8, page 17. The accounts are presented slightly differently from previous years, but last year's figures have been recalculated to reflect new headings. These headings are: "Journal, Ice & Books", "Annals", and "Meetings/Symposia" to reflect the three main activities of the Society.

Income:

Note 2. Voluntary income increased slightly from £1,931 to £1,987 due to an increase in

Royalties (which more than offset a decrease in Donations).

Note 3. As predicted last year, Investment Income shows a marked decline from £29,986 to £4,973 due to the poor interest rates this year compared to previous years. This reflects the global recession.

Notes 4 & 5. Compared with 2008, income from membership subscriptions, sales of the Journal, Ice & Books, sales of Annals, and conferences & symposia are all down in 2009.

Membership subscriptions are shown to be down by £3,211 from £48,080 to £44,869. Actually, membership numbers have remained stable (at around 610). The drop reflects the artificially high figure in 2008, when part of the 2008 income reflects back payments by members prior to 2008. Part of the 2009 figure also reflects back payments prior to 2009. There was a drive by the IGS office to bring the membership payments up to date. Most of this happened in 2008 but this continued into 2009.

Journal sales to libraries and other organisations were up only slightly by £1,482 from £82,987 (2008) to £84,469 (2009). This is despite the Society moving to the publication of 6 Issues per year in 2009 from 5 in 2008, i.e. an increase of 20%. This reflects the increased cost to libraries / organisations increasing from £275 in 2008 to £313 in 2009, i.e. by less than 20%. It also reflects falling sales to libraries / organisations, some of whom are cancelling often long held subscriptions. We believe this is at least in part as a result of the recession.

Page charge income increased by £11,697 from £76,744 to £88,441 (i.e. an increase of 15%). This compares to an increase of £21,695 (2007-8) and a drop of £18,659 (2006-7). Page charges to authors remained the same from 2008 to 2009. The increased income of just 15% compared to an increase in pages published of 46% is because fewer authors were able to honour page charges in 2009 compared to 2008.

Total income from Annals is down by £31,155 from £95,790 to £64,635, down by about 30%. This is despite the fact that 4 issues were published in 2009 but only 3 in 2008. Income from sales to libraries / other organisations was down by £14,393 from £42,903 to £28,510. This mostly reflects a change in accounting procedures. Previously, Annals income was credited in the year the income was received, whereas now it is credited in the subsequent year, the year the libraries / organisations actually receive the Annals. Thus, the 2009 volumes were credited in the 2008 accounts, whereas the 2010 volumes will not be credited until 2010, leaving 2009 with an apparent, but not real, drop in income from this source. More worryingly, some of the drop in income from this source is due to some libraries / organisations cancelling orders for Annals. As with the Journal above, we believe this is at least in part as a result of the recession.

Page charge income was down from £36,657 to £28,892, despite 4 issues being published in 2009 compared with 3 in 2008, reflecting more pages printed in 2009 than 2008. As with the Journal, this reflects the fact that fewer authors honoured pages charges in 2009 cf. 2008.

Expenditure:

Note 6. The direct costs associated with editing, printing, publishing and distributing the Journal and Annals and material for Meetings / Symposia increased by £16,568 from £105,167 to £121,735 compared to a decrease of £9,513 (2007-8) and a decrease of £34,860 (2006-7) and a decrease of £12,269 (2005-6). Printing costs increased by 23% and wages and salaries increased by 30%, which partly reflects the increased number of Journal Issues published. As mentioned above, 1 more Journal issue and one more Annals were published in 2009 cf. 2008. In total, 46% more pages were printed in 2009 cf. 2008. The increased printing costs and salary costs reflect the increased numbers of pages produced. [Interestingly, proof reading and editorial costs declined by 19% suggesting the proof readers / editors were much more efficient in 2009 cf 2008!]

Note 7. The support costs associated with Journal, Annals and Meetings / Symposia activity have increased by £39,475 from £232,956 to £272,431, an increase of 17%. This compares with an increase of £77,793 (50%) from 2007-8. The big hikes are associated with:

- i) telephone, stationery & postage, due mostly to having to post Journal issues separately to members after the official distribution date due to late processing of membership dues (this will hopefully not recur in future now that members can renew online);
- ii) computer costs, due to final implementation of the new MRM membership database system (training and software) and the scanning of back issues of the Journal;
- iii) wages and salaries, mostly due to the employment of Trevor Margerison throughout 2009 (he was appointed part way through 2008) and the additional appointment of the equivalent of close to two full time student helpers. Trevor and the students were employed to clear up the existing membership database, put it in a format that could be imported into the new MRM software, and chase up those members who had not paid membership dues. These tasks have now largely been completed.

So, these three items of expenditure were “one off” items and should not recur in the future.

Travel and subsistence costs, largely the Secretary General representing the Society at various Meetings, have also increased. Symposia support costs have dropped by £6,894, from £28,072 to £21,178 (i.e. dropped by 25%) whereas the Society ran 2 Symposia in 2009 compared with 4 in 2008 (i.e. a 50% drop). The relative increase in support cost per symposia from 2008 to 2009 is because the remote location of one of the 2009 symposia (Manali, India) and because the IGS paid for an officer to represent us at the IACS council meeting the IACS/IAHS Montreal conference and to travel onwards to the Northumbria Symposium. The provision of doubtful debts has also decreased this year by £11,938, since substantial effort with a lot of success has been extended on chasing up aged debts. As note 16 on page 20 shows, net debtors (i.e. after the provision has been removed) amounted to £110,481 in 2008 whereas in 2009 this was £49,859. The reduction in the net debt and the provision for the debt is therefore a very good thing for the Society. The new management software system, MRM, including the members online payment facility, and the direct link between MRM and the accounts software, SAGE, should make invoice and membership dues processing much more streamlined and efficient in the future compared to the recent past.

Note 7. Governance costs associated with running the Society as a Charity have remained stable.

Summary

The Society's finances are still in fairly good shape but there would still appear to be room for improvement in the way the Society operates. We ran a not insubstantial deficit in 2009 (~27% of funds) compared with a small deficit in 2008 (<1% of total funds), a small profit in 2007 (~2% of total funds) and a bigger profit in 2006 (~5.5% of total funds). This year's accounts are, in many respects, a truer reflection of the health of the Society than previous years. In previous years, income appeared more than it really was, as many invoices were not actually paid. This led to the large “debtors” figure and the need to make a large provision for that debt, in case it was never received. This year, the “debtors” figure has been reduced and provision for the possibility that the debt will never be recouped have both dropped.

The basic problem, of course, is that our income has dropped (by 19%) and our expenditure has increased (by 14%) compared with the previous year.

On the income side, as the Society does not wish to increase page charges substantially, it must work at increasing the proportion of authors who pay at least something towards the costs of publishing their articles, preferably the full amount. Faster invoicing and the ability to pay online

may help with this. The Society should also work more at increasing membership. [This is already underway: current membership in June 2010 is 625 compared with last year's membership of 610]. The Society must also try to ensure that library subscriptions to the Journal and Annals do not continue to slip; ideally we'd like to see them increase. A big drop in income is due to the much poorer interest rates in 2009 cf. 2008. This is likely to continue to be an issue for the Society for several years. The Society should consider moving some of its investments into a higher yielding, but still low risk, account.

On the expenditure side, the Society should be somewhat encouraged that many of the items were "one off" payments in 2009. Total staff costs (note 12, page 19) were up by ~£32k and while ~£10k of this reflects an increase in direct costs associated with publishing extra pages in the Journal and Annals, ~£25k was associated with support costs, largely the employment of people to manage the membership data base, its transition to the new management software system, and the retrieval of aged debts from members and libraries / other organisations. Similarly, ~ 10k was due to increased postage of the Journal to members who had not paid their dues at the start of the year and who received their copies after the main mail out. Computing costs were up ~14k due to the final training in and implementation of the new management software system.

The poor management of the Society's accounts in recent years, particularly in terms of maintaining the membership database, processing membership payments, and sending out invoices and reminders promptly has cost the Society, both in terms of lack of income (some aged debts will now never be paid, hence the provision for aged debts in the recent accounts) but also in terms of extra expenditure (the employment of extra staff in 2008-9 to make amends and chase up some of the debtors).

Now that the Society has in place the new joint MRM-SAGE management & accounting system, it is in a perfect position to send out invoices and reminders promptly, process membership dues for the year at the end of each preceding year, and return its wages and salaries associated with support costs back to those it saw prior to 2008. Fast and efficient use of the MRM-SAGE system by all IGS staff will be crucial in this regard.

Ian C. Willis, Treasurer
14th June 2010

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

No questions were raised

T.H. Jacka proposed, and A Sato seconded, that the Treasurer's report and the draft accounts be accepted and he, the President and the Secretary General be authorized to sign off the accounts on behalf of Council. This was carried unanimously.

4. Election of auditors for 2010 accounts

The Secretary General proposed that the Society retain the same auditors as previous years as the 2010 accounts will be the final stage of the merger of the new system implemented by the IGS. The present auditors are familiar with the accounts of the Society which would minimize the effort needed to complete the 2009 audit.

On a motion from the Secretary General, S Sokratov proposed and T.H. Jacka seconded that Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore of Cambridge be elected auditors for the 2010 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 2010–2013, no further nominations were received, and the following members were therefore elected unanimously.

Elective Members:

Dorthe Dahl-Jensen (Denmark)
Matti Leppäranta (Finland)
Liu Shiyin (China)
Johannes Oerlemans (The Netherlands)

The appointment of the new IGS officers and Council members was confirmed by the AGM.

6. Other business

No other business was raised

The AGM was adjourned at 13:00 on a motion from T.H. Jacka seconded by P. Bartelt.