

INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

11:45, 20 August 2015, Wolfson Hall, Churchill College, Cambridge, UK

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

82 persons, from 16 countries, attended of which 73 were members.

1. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, published in the 3rd issue of ICE, 2014, No. 166, p. 29–33, were approved on a motion by M. Siegert and seconded by M. O’Leary and signed by the President.

2. The President gave the following report for 2014–2015:

Dear Fellow Members:

Overview of 2014–2015: Over the past 4 years, there has been considerable discussion within the IGS Council, Publication Committee and with members at large over the ever quickening evolution of the general climate of scientific publication. This discussion culminated early last year with the conduct of a survey addressed to IGS members and to all authors who have submitted papers to the IGS publications over the past 5 years. The survey revealed that the quality, integrity, accessibility and technical production standards of the *Journal of Glaciology* and *Annals of Glaciology* are what matters most to IGS members and authors. After carefully considering the results of the survey, members of the Publication Committee and Council together with the Secretary General and IGS staff considered what steps could be taken to ensure that the *Journal* and *Annals* meet expectations of the community. It was decided, and set into motion, at the Chamonix Council meeting in May 2014 that the best course of action was to modernize the publication model of the *Journal* and *Annals* in a number of ways (including transitioning away from paper copy printing); however, the leading modernization was identified as being the need to shift both the *Journal* and *Annals* to Open Access Gold. (This is the publication standard that allows articles to be accessed immediately on publication by anyone who wishes, and where the costs of publication are borne primarily by the author through page charges or other fees.) The Council passed two motions in Chamonix, the first was to shift the burden of paying for printed copies of the *Journal* and *Annals* to readers/subscribers who are willing to pay the full costs for printing and distribution (members thus no longer get print copies automatically without paying the fee), and the second, most important motion was to shift the *Journal of Glaciology* to Open Access Gold by January 2016 (with the *Annals* to follow).

Since the Council’s ‘Chamonix decision’ in May 2014, the Publication Committee and various officers, members of Council, the Treasurer and Secretary General have worked tirelessly, and relentlessly toward developing a plan to implement the modernization of the *Journal* and *Annals* in general and their transition to Open Access Gold in particular. (Special words of appreciation are given to Christina Hulbe, chair of

the Publication Committee, Eric Wolff, Liam Colgan, Gwenn Flowers, Regine Hock, Ian Willis and others for donating large amounts of their time and energy over the past year, and especially over the past 4 months, pursuing various plans and options regarding the transition.) This band of volunteers cast a wide net to gather information on a variety of possible ways in which the IGS could change how it publishes the Journal and Annals. This variety included options to work primarily within the current system of production, but to meet challenges through further innovation, options to partner with commercial publishers, options to partner with non-profit/university press publishers, options to partner with a major Data Archiving centre associated with the University of Colorado, as well as options to partner with the Public Knowledge Project (PKP).

Over the past 4 months, and especially during 12 hours of Council meetings held during the first 3 days of the Symposium held in Churchill College, the various options were vetted and analysed using various criteria including financial criteria and considerations regarding innovation and placement within the publishing landscape relative to peer journals and publishers. After deliberating on the 3 most serious and well defined options (one of which included maintaining all publication production processes within the current IGS office), the Council decided to pursue the option that will partner the IGS with Cambridge University Press (CUP). Accordingly, the Council passed a motion to authorize a working group (chaired by Christina Hulbe, and involving members in the local Cambridge area as well as others) to negotiate a partnership with CUP and produce a contractual plan that will be submitted to the Council for approval on or about 15 September, 2015.

The reasons for selecting CUP as a publishing partner involve many considerations. The principle consideration is that CUP provides a relatively low-risk (financially) pathway to Open Access Gold for both future issues of the Journal and Annals (starting in 2016) and for all back issues (over a period of months). CUP would essentially take over the post-acceptance production workflow of the Journal and Annals that is currently performed by IGS staff, and would provide the one-source location for all on-line presentation of IGS publications. The Scientific Editing and Review process that is performed prior to the acceptance of papers in IGS publications will remain firmly within the sole control of the IGS board of editors. Details of the partnership with CUP are under negotiation and thus cannot be described further. Once the negotiations have been completed, and the Council's approval has been received, a general announcement will be made regarding details of the new partnership. This announcement is anticipated to be made shortly after mid-September.

Aside from this very important development in the operation of the IGS, I can report that the IGS has done very well in other respects over the 2014–15 period. Most notably, as reflected in the Treasurer's report, the IGS has maintained a very profitable and healthy financial condition over the period. This healthy financial condition makes the transition of IGS publications to Open Access Gold much easier and allows greater flexibility than would have been the case if the IGS staff and Secretary General had not worked diligently to keep the financial conditions in good shape. I continue to note the success of IGS publications, with steady submissions to the Journal and several issues of the Annals having been published in 2014/15, and I thank the Chief Editor and members of the scientific editing teams for all IGS publications for their fine work. I

make note of the fact that our current Chief Editor, Dr. Jo Jacka, who has performed in this office for the past 13 years will be retiring in 2016. A search process for a new CE (or a team of CE's) will be started shortly. Jo will continue to serve as CE until July of 2016, and he has generously offered to help with the transition process to a new CE over the coming year. Finally, I note the fact that the IGS has conducted 3 very fine symposia over the first 8 months of 2015: Kathmandu, Nepal, Höfn, Iceland and here in Cambridge, U.K. These symposia have been very successful in fostering the exchange of scientific information, and the IGS staff and community volunteers who comprise the local organizing committees are very much appreciated for facilitating this important mission of the IGS.

I close my report by thanking you, the general membership of the IGS, for remaining loyal to the IGS – both by submitting your papers to us and by paying generously your membership dues. We will need your loyalty (and your continued participation as members) over the coming year as we face the various challenges of converting our publications to Open Access Gold. Eventually, within a 1–2 year time frame, we expect to see a new, revitalized IGS emerge from the fine traditions of its past, and we who participate in the Governance of the IGS thank you, the members, for making this transition possible. Your opinions (as expressed in the survey) and your financial support (through dues and page charges) have put the IGS in a position to make a radical improvement in the service it provides without undue risk and hardship.

Thank you.

The President suggested that questions relating to his report be deferred until item 6 on the agenda, 'Other business', as his presentation was directly related to the open forum discussion that was planned. The request for a motion to accept or reject the President's report would also be deferred to item 6 on the agenda once the general discussion has taken place.

3. The IGS Treasurer, Dr I.C. Willis, presented the following report with the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

Dear fellow members, ladies and gentlemen

As our turnover was >£500k in 2014, we were obliged to have a full Audit this year. Throughout this report I will make reference to the Society's fully audited accounts for the year 2014 and refer to the relevant page numbers.

The Society's finances are summarized by considering the changes from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014, as shown on page 11 of the accounts. In the table, Restricted Funds refers to money associated specifically with the Seligman Crystal and the Richardson Medal. The item, Unrestricted Funds, refers to everything else.

Restricted Funds: decreased by £1015 from £6962 to £5947 as a result of the difference between interest payment income and expenditure on engraving the one Seligman Crystal presented in 2014.

Unrestricted Funds: increased by £98219 from £392578 to £490797 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 organizing symposia and running the Society.

Total: The Society had net resources accrued before revaluation of £98396 resulting in the positive movement in the Society's funds of £97204 in 2014, compared with £8477 in 2013, £28092 in 2012, and losses between 2008 and 2011.

Thus, I am pleased to report that the Society's finances are in profit for the third year in a row and that we turned in the biggest annual profit for over 9 years. The last 3 years have seen a cumulative profit of £133773 which has gone a good way to offsetting the periods of loss between 2008 and 2011. Since 2007, we have a cumulative deficit of £72008. I hope the Society can continue to reduce that over the next year by turning in a modest profit again for 2015. Our total funds at the end of the year were £496744 and our average annual expenditure for the last three years has been £551472. As I have stated in previous reports, I would like to see our total funds equal to our annual expenditure and we are not quite realizing that.

In more detail, income is itemized 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 £9453 in 2014 compared with £2048 in 2013. This mostly reflects a grant of €10k from the European Social Fund to enable student bursaries to be given out for the Chamonix Conference.

Note 3. Trading activities associated with the sale of IGS merchandise turned in a small profit of £709 in 2014 compared with a smaller profit of £632 in 2013 and a small loss of £365 in 2012. Over the past few years, trading of t-shirts, fleeces, hats, etc. has made a small profit; it would be nice if this profit could be increased.

Note 4. Income from interest on investments increased slightly in 2014 compared with 2013: up £411 from £7384 to £7795. A few 'higher interest' investments matured in 2014 and these were reinvested in similar low risk accounts, which however, yielded slightly higher interest than our regular bank account.

Note 5. Income associated with Journal, ICE & Books was up by £56457 from £250680 in 2013 to £307137 in 2014. Some of this increase was due to increased membership subscriptions, shown separately on page 11, where we see that membership income increased by £6589 from £61488 to £68077. The rest of the increase associated with Journal, ICE & Books is associated with sales to non-members, libraries and other organizations, and page charges. These are discussed further below with respect to Note 6. Income associated with Annals was down by £41,548 from £165508 in 2013 to £123960 in 2014. I discuss this further below too with respect to

Note 6. Income from Meetings & Symposia was up by £130015 from £72621 in 2013 to £202636 in 2014. This is despite the fact that two Symposia took place in both 2013 (Beijing & Kansas) and 2014 (Hobart & Chamonix). This is to some extent offset by the higher costs of running the Meetings/Symposia in 2014 cf. 2013 (see note 10 below). A preliminary investigation suggests that the Society's Meetings & Symposia tend to make a small loss (when overheads associated with the IGS Office are factored in) and that the extent of this loss depends heavily on the 'success' of the meeting as measured by numbers attending and degree of sponsorship that the local committee are able to muster. I accept that there are other ways of measuring 'success' of a conference and the IGS should not lose sight of that. But, I would encourage Meetings/Symposia to be offered that are likely to attract significant numbers (as then the Society benefits from 'economies of scale') and where extra funds are forthcoming wherever possible.

Note 6. Journal sales to libraries and other organizations were up slightly by £1440 from £89908 (2013) to £91348. This reflects the increased cost of the Journal to libraries, which slightly offset the small drop in the number of library subscribers and an increase in the percentage taking online only (which is cheaper than the paper copy). [Since 2012, the number of library subscribers has dropped from 302 to 284 and the number taking online only has increased from 21 to 79. This needs to be monitored into the future, especially when the Journal goes Open Access in 2016]. Conversely, income from page charges dropped by £28065 from £134566 (2013) to £106501 (2014). Income from the Open Access Fee increased from £2300 (1 paper) in 2013 to £34500 (15 papers) in 2014. Taken together, income to the Journal from authors rose slightly by £4135. The Publications Committee and the Treasurer are currently trying to anticipate likely scenarios for the changing balance between income from libraries and income from authors over the next few years as the Journal moves to Open Access.

Note 6. As mentioned above, total income from Annals is down £41548 from £165508 in 2013 to £123960 in 2014. This decrease in Annals income largely reflects the smaller number of Annals issues published in 2014 cf. 2013 (4 issues in 2014 – all single; five issues in 2013 – one single and two double). Six authors opted to pay the Open Access Fee.

Expenditure:

Note 8. The direct costs associated with editing, printing, publishing and distributing the Journal and Annals and material for Meetings/Symposia decreased slightly by £5444 from £137717 (2013) to £132273 (2014). This compares with bigger increases of £8753 (2012–13) and £6533 (2011–12). Printing costs are generally dropping as more and more members and libraries subscribe to online only (and one less Annals issue was produced in 2014 cf. 2013). Wages and salaries associated with these activities dropped slightly by £2165 as one less Annals issue was produced. Similarly, proof reading and editorial costs dropped slightly. Editorial fees and expenses rose slightly as the Chief Editor's allowance rose with inflation and he attended two conferences in 2014 cf. one in 2013 (albeit one was in his home city of Hobart).

Note 9. The Society paid out £3187 to student members to help with their costs of attending IGS Symposia. [NB. This is < the €10k given for this purpose (see note 2 above); the remainder was forwarded to be administered by the local organizing committee].

Note 10. The total support costs associated with Journal, Annals and Meetings / Symposia activity increased by £56384 from £301823 (2013) to £358207 (2014). This is largely made up of the increased costs associated with running the Hobart/Chamonix symposia compared with running the Beijing/Kansas meetings (an increase of £48225). This is to some extent offset by the increased income associated with Meetings/Symposia – see note 5 above. Some of these year-to-year differences in income/expenditure of Meetings/Symposia reflect whether the IGS is involved in paying upfront for accommodation, banquet, etc. Telephone, stationery & postage costs continue to fall (as fewer paper copies of the Journal and Annals are posted). Similarly, Travel and subsistence costs (largely the costs of our Secretary General representing the Society at Meetings (not Symposia, which are accounted for elsewhere) continue to fall. The big hike in Computer costs of £10369 is related to a change in the date on which prepayment for website hosting occurred in 2014 cf. 2013. We should expect a similar drop in 2015 cf. 2014.

I am very pleased to report that there is no longer any need for a ‘provision for doubtful debts’ item. How different the situation was a few years ago!

Note 11. Governance costs associated with running the Society increased by £5751 in 2014 cf. 2013 (13.5%). (They also increased by £10008 in 2013 compared with 2012 (27.6%)). These year-on-year increases are largely associated with increased salary costs.

Note 14. Overall staff costs went up by £5696 in 2014 cf. 2013 (3.7%). This compares with an increase of £17983 in 2013 cf. 2012 (partly due to a step pay rise for the Secretary General in recognition of his 10 years of service to the Society) and a fall of £11107 in 2012 cf. 2011. The fluctuations from year to year largely represent: i) variations in the number of hours that production staff spend on producing the Annals (the number of issues of which varies from year to year); ii) staff changes and the extent to which there is overlap or a gap in continuity; iii) whether a student intern is employed in the summer.

Summary

The Society's finances are in quite a good shape and better than they have been in recent years, with the largest annual profit since before 2007. We ran a significant surplus in 2014 (20% of funds). This compares with a very small surplus in 2013 (2% of funds), a slightly bigger 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 nine years is that we have been accumulating a deficit although we have gone a good way to closing that over the last three years. I recommend that we strive to ensure that the surpluses of recent years continue for the next year or two.

On the income side, there are three pieces of good news: i) the Society's membership continues to be stable and has even risen slightly; ii) library subscriptions to the Journal and Annals are largely being maintained (although both have dropped slightly in recent years); and iii) authors are honouring page charges and more are paying the Open Access fee. The effects on these income streams of the journal going fully Open Access are unknown although the Publications Committee and I have been modelling various possible scenarios with the aim of presenting to Council suggestions for precisely what the Open Access fee ought to be and how to manage library subscriptions to back issues in future years. It is a balancing act not to set the Open Access fee too high to discourage authors, but neither to set it too low to cut off what will be the major income instream in the future.

On the expenditure side, the Society's costs have largely stabilized in recent years. Our key items of expenditure are, of course, employing a full time Secretary General, a part time Membership & Accounts Manager, and the equivalent of slightly less than two full time production staff; renting an office in central Cambridge; providing a Chief Editor allowance; paying proof editors and producing hard copies of the Journal and Annals. Ignoring a one off step increase for the SG in 2013, wages and salaries are incremented each year by the UK Retail Price Index, which since 2007 has averaged 3.3%.

It is not immediately obvious from the way the accounts are presented, and it is not something that I've mentioned in my previous reports, or analysed here, but for the past three years (2012–14) the Society has made a loss on the running of Meetings / Symposia when income (largely from the conference fee charged to delegates) minus the expenditure (which includes a proportion of overheads associated with running the IGS office) associated with this area of IGS activity is considered separately from the two other main areas (i.e. producing the Journal and producing the Annals). Symposia have made an average annual loss of ~£35k. Conversely, the Journal has made a profit of ~£45k and the Annals a profit of ~£33k.

Ian C. Willis, Treasurer
22nd August 2015

The SG invited members to discuss the Treasurers report.

A member asked whether any forecasts had been made regarding what effect going 'Open Access' would have upon the finances of the society. The Treasurer responded that several scenarios had been modelled looking at how subscriptions will fall off and the number of papers that will be submitted. The IGS has been working with Cambridge University Press (CUP) on those predictions and further negotiations are necessary. The IGS and CUP are both optimistic about the future and are confident that the IGS will survive this transition. But it will be necessary to make savings wherever possible. The President added that it was clear that will be very stressful financially as we are losing library subscriptions and we start to wind down the journal production within the IGS office and transfer it to CUP. The IGS membership has been very loyal and supportive and the IGS is grateful for that.

The treasurer was also asked about the reserves of the Society and he responded that it is considered prudent to have funds to cover a year's operation of the Society.

T. Scambos proposed, and B. Kullessa 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. A question from the floor asked whether an alternate and possibly cheaper accounting company could be found. The SG and the Treasurer replied that we did look into this some years ago and found that the quotes received were not substantially different from what our current accountants, Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore, could offer and since they had been doing our accounts for several decades they knew the innards of the IGS very well. The floor suggested that perhaps that would be a good reason to investigate whether an alternative company could be found, the current accountants could be complacent in the knowledge that the IGS was a 'secure' client. The Treasurer and the SG replied that it would certainly be a good idea to start looking around in the new year but in light of the major transition the IGS is undergoing it should not be during this current financial year.

On a motion from the Secretary General, G. Hamilton proposed, and T. Bartholomaeus seconded, that Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore of Cambridge be elected 'Independent Inspectors or Auditors', whichever is appropriate for the 2015 accounts. This was carried unanimously.

5. Elections to Council. After circulation to Society members of the Council's suggested list of nominees for 2015–2018, no further nominations were received. The following members were therefore elected unanimously by the AGM.

Vice-Presidents:	Gwenn Flowers
Treasurer:	Ian Willis
Elective Members:	Helen Fricker Jennifer Hutchings Shichang Kang Andrew Mackintosh Carleen Tijm Reijmer

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 open questions and discussion covering a variety of topics. Topics discussed included:

A question was asked from the floor whether paper copies would still be available now that the IGS is moving to Gold Open Access. The SG responded that paper copies would be available for purchase. The President pointed out that the full cost of paper

copies would have to be borne by the person requesting the paper copy. A follow on question was asked about the archiving of IGS publications. The President responded that IGS publications are stored securely in a safe location and maintained on the latest platforms known as a 'dark archive'. The questioner expressed his opinion that to ensure the posterity of IGS publications they should be printed on special archive paper and stored securely. The SG responded that the IGS does indeed store 5 copies of each issue. How long the IGS will continue to do so depends on how long print copies will be produced.

A question was asked from the floor concerning whether there would be any changes in the editorial and review format of the IGS journals. The President and the IGS Chief Editor responded that the current format would remain unchanged.

The President informed the AGM that the current IGS Chief Editor would be retiring at the end of his term and that the Society would be conducting a search for his replacement or replacements. The search will be conducted by the Publications Committee under the leadership of the chair of the committee, Christina Hulbe. Comments and questions about the search for a new Chief Editor(s) should be directed to her and her committee. The IGS Chief Editor added that it is intended that the new Chief Editor(s) should be appointed at the beginning of 2016 but that there would be a transition period during which new papers would be handled by the incoming Chief Editor(s) but the current CE would manage papers already in the system.

A question was asked from the floor concerning whether there were any projections as to how going to the Gold Open Access would affect the citations of articles published in IGS publications. The President responded that the expectations are that citations to our articles will increase dramatically, not only because of the Open Access but also because of the sophistication of the CUP website. That would eventually affect the impact factor of IGS publications in a positive way.

A question was asked from the floor concerning whether it would be possible to get e-mail alert about journal content. The President responded that would indeed be possible. The SG pointed out that it is possible with our present service provider to sign up to alerts for when an issue is published. The President then outlined what we are hoping for in the more sophisticated online presence we are anticipating should we decide to go into partnership with CUP.

A question was asked from the floor concerning whether LaTeX templates would be available and the President responded that we would ensure the both LaTeX and Word templates would continue to be made available.

A question was asked from the floor concerning whether a new partnership would change how our material would get into ISI, Scopus and similar indexing and search listings. The President responded by saying that we are expecting an improvement in the technical presentation of our material on the website of our proposed partner.

A question was asked from the floor concerning whether the IGS was planning a change in the charging process, would we continue to charge authors at the time of acceptance, would we start charging for submissions for example? The President responded that some of those details were still under discussion. A follow up question was asked concerning whether the IGS would continue to offer the possibility of a waiver for authors who are unable to pay APCs? Again the President responded and

said that the IGS would like to do that. He also raised the issue that with the IGS' release from the heavy burden of publishing a major journal it might explore new paths and new ventures such as the publication of data, supporting early career scientists, etc.. The questioner suggested the possibility of adding a fee onto the membership that would go directly towards supporting authors that are unable to pay APCs or possibly supporting early career scientist to attend IGS symposia and meetings.

The President asked IGS members to remain loyal to the IGS during this difficult transition. A Council member pointed out that as part of the negotiations with the potential partner the understanding is that IGS members would pay a reduced APC charges.

The Treasurer told the AGM that once the negotiations with our potential partner have reached a stage where there is a draft contract available there will be a consultation period with the IGS membership or at least the possibility for members to comment on the partnership.

At this stage the President asked for a motion from the floor to either accept or reject the Presidents report.

F. Navarro proposed and C. Ritz seconded, that the President's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

No other items were raised.

The President asked members to bring any further questions relating to the transition to Gold Open Access and the potential partnership with Cambridge University Press to the attention of the Publications Committee. The President pointed out the committee members present at the meeting.

The President asked for a motion to adjourn the AGM.

The AGM was adjourned on a motion from F. Pattyn and seconded by R. Jacobel at 12:35 BST.