

International Glaciological Society Treasurer's Report, 2008

The state of the Society's finances is best summarised by considering the changes from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007, as shown on page 9 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 very slightly from £7945 to £8245 as a consequence of accrued interest of £300;

Designated Fund: increased slightly by £1,175 from £174,188 to £175,363 showing that the income to IGS from symposia attendance, Annals pages charges and Annals sales roughly matched expenditure associated with Annals printing and publication, and office support for activities related to running Symposia and production of Annals. This compares to a small loss of £1,946 last year.

Accumulated Fund: increased by £9,852 from £386,619 to £396,471 showing that income from membership, sales of the Journal, and page charges slightly exceeded expenditure associated with Journal printing and publication, and associated office support. This compares to a bigger profit of £31,707 last year.

Total: The Society made a net profit of £11,327 in 2007 compared to a net profit of £29,799 in 2006

In more detail, income is itemised in note 2, page 13 and expenditure is listed in notes 3 & 4, page 14.

Income:

Membership dues dropped significantly compared with 2006 from £38,819 to £16,741. The Society should be reassured that this is not because members are choosing to leave in large numbers, but because the mechanism whereby the IGS office sends out invoices to members and processes payment is no longer working as well as it used to.

Journal sales were up by £11,413 (2006-7) compared to a rise of £15,753 the year before (2005-6). Sales of Journal reprints by authors not paying page charges continued to fall this year by £1,012 to just £98! This compares to a fall of £165 the year before (2005-6). This partly reflects authors choosing not to receive reprints (presumably because of the rise of the "pdf") but may also reflect a backlog in the processing of invoices. Page charge income dropped by £18,659 (2006-7) compared to a rise of £28,675 the year before (2005-6) and a rise of £25,533 the year before that (2004-5). As with membership dues above, this does not reflect a drop in the number of authors paying page charges, but rather a backlog in the processing of invoices. Income from Annals is healthy, although again there is a backlog associated with invoice processing.

Expenditure:

Large expenditure is associated with printing and publishing the Journal and Annals. These costs decreased by £34,860 (2006-7) compared to a decrease of £12,269 between 2005-6 and the massive increase of £107,739 between 2004-5. This reflects the good management and efficient work practices of the publications team at the IGS office, together with recently negotiated reduced printing costs. Other major expenditure comes from the costs of supporting the Journal and Annals. This was actually comparable to last year (2006). [The drop from £212,246 to £155,164 (i.e. £57,082) is largely due to the drop of £62,516 under the “Symposia – Other Costs” heading. But this is counteracted by an increase of £59,103 under the “Incoming Resources – Symposia” heading on page 9. These differences in accounting procedures between years reflect the fact that the IGS functioned as the local organising committee for the Cambridge meeting in 2006, but not for the meetings in 2007]. Travel expenses have increased by £8,169 (2006-7) due largely to the greater ambassadorial role played by the Secretary General visiting local branch meetings and other glaciological functions.

Journal and Annals

In 2007, the Society published 908 pages in the *Journal of Glaciology* and 1114 pages in the *Annals of Glaciology* (44, 45 & 46). In 2006 the figures were 807 for the *Journal* and 1319 for the *Annals*.

This continues to reflect the reorganization of the production procedures, which have considerably improved the efficiency of the production process so that the Society publications are now seen as very viable and prompt. As a result we are seeing a considerable increase in paper submissions to the Journal. In 2006 we had a record 122 submissions, an increase of 17% over the previous 10-year average and a 24% increase over the 1988–2005 average. In 2007 we surpassed this record by 25, 147 submissions in total. This is an increase of 39% over the previous 10-year average and a 48% increase over the 1989–2006 average. And this year, we are already 6 weeks ahead of last year’s submissions and hopefully heading for another record year.

As of the second week of June we have already published about 540 pages of the *Journal* this year. We have almost finished publishing the third issue of 2008 and are well on our way with the production of what is supposed to be the last issue of 2008.

However, we have suffered a setback with the *Annals* in that Thomson ISI decided unilaterally to remove it from the Web of Science and thus the impact factor that is associated with WoS. The Council is in the process of redefining the *Annals* editorial policy and we are hoping to regain our status within WoS within the next year or so. This has resulted in slimmer *Annals* volumes as authors are reluctant to publish in a non-ISI publication. Indeed, it is the requirement of some funding agencies that funded authors must publish in ISI publications.

Summary

The Society’s finances are in fairly good shape but some changes must be made in the coming months as summarised below. We ran at a profit in 2007 (~2% of total funds) c.f. a slightly bigger profit last year (~5.5% 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 outputs side, we are continuing to benefit from recent improvements in the efficiencies of printing and publishing of the *Journal* and *Annals*. Under Magnus's management, we have seen a continued growth in the number of submissions to the *Journal* in particular and improved turn around times from submission to publication. The Society will shortly be moving over to an online automated submission and review system, which should improve this aspect of the Society's operations still further.

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 make a plea to IGS members to do all in their power to increase the membership. Please encourage your colleagues and students to join. Also, please ensure that libraries in any institutions over which you have influence either maintain their subscriptions to the *Journal* and *Annals* or take them out. Against the backdrop of Climate Change, research into all aspects of the cryosphere is increasing and so we should be seeing an increase in both membership and subscriptions to our publications

However, the major challenge for the Society now is to improve the procedure for sending and processing of invoices. This is inadequate at present and the Society accrued £126,212 of debtors in 2007, although this was even worse the year before (£162,755) [see note 10 of the accounts]. Debtors include members who have not paid their dues, authors who have not paid their page charges, and libraries that have not paid their subscriptions.

I will shortly be recommending to Council, that new software is purchased for the IGS Office to enable: i) improved management of the Society's database (members, authors, libraries, etc); ii) greater automation of invoicing; and iii) online debit or credit card payment and the ability to set up standing orders. This should considerably improve the ability of the Society to generate income, which should ultimately allow us to drive down costs.

Ian C. Willis, Treasurer
30th May 2008