

## International Glaciological Society Treasurer's Report for the Year 2012

As our turnover in 2012 was greater than £500k, it was compulsory for our accountants to undertake a full Audit this year rather than the less intensive Independent Examiner's Report of the previous two years.

The Society's finances are best summarised by considering the changes from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012, as shown on page 10 of the accounts. In the table, the Restricted Fund is money earmarked specifically for costs associated with the Seligman Crystal and the Richardson Medal. The Unrestricted Funds is everything else.

Restricted Funds: *decreased* by £1,362 from £8,362 to £7,000 as a result of the manufacture and purchase of two Seligman Crystals. Two crystals were awarded in 2012.

Unrestricted Funds: *increased* by £29,454 from £354,609 to £384,063 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, publication and associated office support, and office support for activities related to running symposia.

Total: The Society had net resources accrued before revaluation of £26,707 resulting in the positive movement in the Society's funds of £28,092 in 2012, compared to the slight loss of £19,199 in 2011, the bigger loss of £70,573 in 2010, an even bigger loss of £122,499 in 2009 a smaller loss of £4,837 in 2008, and a net profit of £11,327 in 2007.

Thus, although it has taken us five years, we have thankfully turned the finances around from loss to profit. This is an important achievement. Of course, since 2007 we still have a cumulative deficit of £177,689 and I'd argue that we should try to reduce that over the next few years by continuing to turn in a modest profit each year. Our total funds at the end of the year were £391,063 and yet our average annual expenditure for the last three years has been £538,464. Thus, if our income stream were suddenly shut off completely (unlikely I know), we'd only have enough reserves to keep us going until 22 September!

In more detail, income is itemised in notes 2-6, and expenditure is listed in notes 3 and 7-11 on pages 15-18. 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 £737 in 2012 compared to £1,522 in 2011 (and £6,308 in 2010). This reflects fewer Royalties associated with declining sales of individual articles through Ingenta and licensing fees (for copying individual articles) collected by the Publishers Licensing Society Ltd (PLS).

Note 3. Trading activities associated with the sale of IGS merchandise turned in a small loss of £365 in 2012 compared to a small profit of £33 in 2011 and a larger profit of £915 in 2010. This largely reflects the cost of manufacturing the IGS fleeces this year combined with fewer sales this year compared with previous.

Note 4. IGS reserves were transferred into medium term investment accounts in July 2011 (£200,000 into a two year account and £100,000 into a one year account) and income from this was £9,832 in 2012, higher than in recent previous years. It is still a long way off the £29,986 in 2008 when bank interest rates were much higher. These higher interest accounts elapsed earlier in 2013 and we have renewed them at an interest rate similar to what we had before. Again considerably below the interest rate we had prior to 2008.

Note 5. Income from membership subscriptions and sales of the *Journal*, ICE & Books to libraries and individuals is up by £16,361 from £260,300 in 2011 to £276,661 in 2012. Similarly, income from meetings & symposia is up by £215,492 from £50,031 in 2011 to £265,523 in 2012. This reflects the fact that one symposium was held in 2011 but three, including the large SCAR meeting, took place in

2012. Conversely, income from sales of *Annals* was down by £60,564 from £139,918 in 2011 to £79,354 in 2012.

Membership subscriptions (see page 11) were up by £5,643 from £56,723 in 2011 to £62,366 in 2012. This continues the trend from last year. Membership numbers have continued to go up (150 new members in 2012 cf. 2011) and payments have increasingly been received before the new subscription year or early in the year as a result of renewal notices being sent out in an efficient and timely manner.

Note 6.

*Journal* sales to libraries and other organisations were up by £9,393 from £88,714 (2011) to £98,107 (2012), a rise of 10.6%. In 2011-2012, the annual subscription rose by 2.5% (£324 to £332). Together, this shows that the number of libraries subscribing to the *Journal* rose between 2011 and 2012, which is good news and reverses the trend of a steady fall in library subscriptions since 2009.

*Journal* page charge income declined very slightly by £1,242 from £113,977 to £112,735 (despite a few more pages being published in 2012 (1252) than in 2011 (1184)). This reverses the steadily rising contribution from this source since 2007. It increased by £14,553 (2010-2011), by £10,984 (2009-10), by £11,697 (2008-9) and by £21,695 (2007-8). Page charges to authors remained the same from 2008 to 2012 and so the rising contribution up to 2011 shows that progressively more authors were able to honour page charges up to 2011. The slight reversal in this trend in 2012 reflects the fact that we are reaching a maximum in the page charge income that we can receive from authors as virtually all authors now, quite rightly, honour page charges. The difference of £1,242 between 2011 and 2012 is insignificant.

Total income from *Annals* is down by £60,564 from £139,918 in 2011 to £79,354 in 2012. [NB. This does not include income for the *Annals* from delegates at conferences who essentially receive their copy 'free', i.e. this is accounted for under the income to meetings/symposia heading]. The reduction in *Annals* income largely reflects the fact that 4 *Annals* were sold in 2011 and 3 in 2012 giving a greater income from libraries and institutions, combined with the fact that all 4 2011 volumes had associated page charge income but only 2 of the 3 2012 volumes had page charge income. The page charge income for the *Annals* volume on the theme of the Russia Symposium was partially met by a contribution of £22,894 from the organisers of the symposium, which was held in 2011 and which appeared on last year's accounts.

#### Expenditure:

Note 8. The direct costs associated with editing, printing, publishing and distributing the *Journal* and *Annals* and material for Meetings / Symposia decreased by £6,533 from £135,497 to £128,964. This compares to an increase of £5,086 (2010-11), an increase of £8,676 (2009-10) and an increase of £16,568 (2008-9). Printing costs increased largely due to increased colour printing (the decline in printing of fewer *Annals* pages was more than offset by an increase in printing of *Journal* pages). Proof reading and editing costs rose very slightly (by £738) as did editorial fees and expenses (£1,668). Fees associated with online submission declined by £1,682 although this is largely artificial with 2011 appearing high since invoicing for 2011 occurred in early 2011 and invoicing for 2012 occurred in late 2011. Wages and salaries associated with these activities decreased by £4,411. This is shared across all 3 activities (*Journal*, *Annals*, *Meetings/Symposia*) despite the Society producing more *Journal* pages and organising more *Symposia*. This is a good sign and suggests greater efficiency by IGS Office staff.

Note 9. The Society gave grants totalling £4,105 to support the glaciology summer school held in Alaska and the ISMASS workshop in Portland, Oregon.

Note 10. The support costs associated with *Journal*, *Annals* and Meetings / Symposia activity have increased substantially by £135,577 from £292,521 to £428,098. This is largely made up of the extra costs associated with running 3 Symposia rather than 1 (an increase of £155,107) which is partly offset by savings elsewhere. Encouragingly, many items are less costly this year than last year, including telephone and postage, computing and office equipment. It is also encouraging to see a continued reduction under the Wages and salaries, National insurance and Pension costs due to continued streamlining of work practices in the IGS office. It is also good to see a reduced expenditure compared to

last year (£6,575) against Travel and Subsistence costs (largely the costs of our Secretary General representing the Society at Meetings (not Symposia, which are accounted for elsewhere)). This reverses steady year on year increases in this item over the last four years.

The provision of doubtful debts is now a trivial amount (£361) compared to the situation several years ago. As note 18 on page 22 shows, net debtors at the end of the year amounted to £24,795 in 2012. This compares to £110,481 in 2008! There are now essentially no long term debtors.

The much higher bank charges in 2012 cf. 2011 (a rise of £6,846) is largely associated with the increased costs of credit card transactions. These were relatively high in 2012 associated mostly with the SCAR meeting.

Note 10. Governance costs associated with running the Society as a Charity decreased by £6,350 in 2012 compared to 2011. As mentioned in last year's report, costs were unusually high in 2011 due to professional advice and staff time taken up with the VAT payment backlog. Governance costs are now comparable with what they were in 2010. The first item in this Note is greater than last year due to the extra time spent by our Accountants on producing a full audit rather than the less rigorous independent examination.

### Summary

The Society's finances are in much better shape than they have been for some years. We ran a small surplus in 2012 (~7% of funds) and so we have achieved the major goal we set ourselves this time last year. This small surplus compares to a small deficit in 2011 (~5% of funds), a bigger deficit in 2010 (~18% of funds) a much bigger deficit in 2009 (~27% of funds), a small deficit in 2008 (<1% of funds), a small surplus in 2007 (~2% of total funds) and a bigger surplus in 2006 (~5.5% of total funds). Thus, the net result over the past seven years is that we have been accumulating a deficit, although hopefully the small surplus in 2012 is the start of a trend that may help reduce that cumulative deficit over the next few years. The Society is now setting a budget on all key items of income and expenditure and is more closely monitoring each item on a weekly to monthly basis. This seems to have gone some way towards helping us achieve our small surplus.

On the income side, it is excellent that the Society increased its paying membership compared to the previous year and it is hoped that more people will be encouraged to join in the future, especially younger members and members from emerging industrialised nations, e.g. China and India. It is also good news that the Society increased its library subscriptions to the *Journal*. Again, it is hoped that this can be maintained. The Society should continue to invest some of its assets in high interest medium term (1-2 years) bank accounts.

On the expenditure side, the Society's expenses have stabilised and been brought under control in recent years. It is encouraging that big items of expenditure – computing, editing, wages are now rising by modest amounts or even falling slightly.

The biggest challenge to the Society will be to remain competitive in the face of changes in the publishing sector, in particular the rise of open access publishing. I think that to authors, our page charge policy still represents very good "value for money" compared with many of the alternatives. We should continue to make sure that this remains the case and that this fact is advertised to prospective authors. So far, I sense that many authors across all aspects of glaciology continue to want to publish their findings in the *Journal* or *Annals* but we should remain ever wary of our competitors. Similarly, I think that IGS Symposia and other sponsored meetings continue to represent important venues for scientists to present their work and to meet and discuss their findings and ideas with others. They provide a very different experience to that provided by, for example, AGU and EGU. This fact needs to be continuously advertised, and interest in and attendance at our symposia / meetings needs to be closely monitored.

Ian C. Willis, Treasurer  
8<sup>th</sup> July 2013