

Minutes of the IGS British Branch Annual General Meeting held 4th September 2023

In attendance:

Anne Le Brocq (ALB - ex president - co-chair)

Tom Cowton (TC - incoming president - co-chair)

Amber Leeson (AL - secretary – minutes)

Magnus Magnusson (MM - IGS Secretary General)

Apologies: Rachel Carr (RC - president - listening online), Nick Rutter (NR - Treasurer), Lauren Rawlins (LR - ECR Rep).

1. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as written.

2. Treasurer's report

The treasurer's report was circulated to the committee by Nick Rutter via email in advance of the meeting and read at the meeting by Anne Le Brocq as follows:

“We have £4758.15 in our account. Outgoings were £200 (four prizes of £50 each for the student poster and talk awards from the Edinburgh meeting). No incoming monies.”

3. Election of new officers

ALB explained the current process by which offices are elected which is summarised as follows. When a vacancy arises, the BB committee decides who to approach to fill the position. This person is then contacted in advance of the next AGM and if they are willing they are nominated to the role and the nomination is accepted at the meeting.

This year, the role of incoming president is becoming vacant. ALB will cycle off of the committee, RC will move to the ex-president post and TC will cycle in to become current president. Liz Bagshaw had been approached about joining the committee as incoming president before the meeting and was willing to undertake the role.

Liz was nominated for the position by Mike Prior-Jones and the nomination was seconded by Ian Hewitt.

British Branch welcomed Liz to the committee. TC formally thanked ALB on behalf of the Branch for her service, as incoming, serving and past president over the past six years.

This year, the role of ECR rep is also becoming vacant. It was decided that the early career glaciologist group should elect the ECR rep and this was delegated to them for action after the meeting. The committee heard on 6th September that Tomos Morgan has been elected to the position.

ALB formally thanked Lauren Rawlins on behalf of the branch for her service as ECR rep.

4. Discussion re: committee appointments

TC then led a discussion about the process by which committee members are appointed. The discussion is summarised as follows:

TC opened by asking the question: Can we do things better, and in a more open and transparent way? This was then qualified by suggesting that the current approach might be bad for individuals, because it is not clear how you might get involved in the committee if you want to. It may also be bad for the branch since we might miss out on people who are good and enthusiastic.

TC then suggested that we might, for example, send out a call for expressions of interest in advance of the meeting, then if we get more than one person then a democratic process e.g. in the meeting or including everyone via UK wide mailing list or online voting could be invoked. The floor was then opened for discussion.

John Hillier suggested that we might require that nominees have attended BB in the past.

TC agreed that some selection criteria would be good and that it could include regular attendance at BB meetings.

ACTION: Committee to develop selection criteria for committee roles.

MM suggested that there might be issues with keeping track of meeting attendance re: GDPR.

Pete Nienow pointed out that this wouldn't need to be that formal .

Sammie Buzzard asked if we have a British Branch mailing list that we could use for a democratic process, and suggested that if not, maybe we should consider setting one up.

MM responded that we could set up a British Branch membership scheme costing a nominal fee (e.g. £1 a year) which would generate the mailing list. He also pointed out that if you are an IGS member you can self-select a branch to be affiliated with.

Doug Mair suggested that it is probably reasonable to expect office holders to be IGS members.

There was general agreement to this and TC said that it should be added to the selection criteria.

TJ Young suggested that this might be a barrier to an ECR taking up the ECR rep role.

TC suggested that maybe there should be a separate criteria for the ECR role, being mindful of this.

Ben Davidson asked if there were role descriptions for the committee positions, and asked if there should be some if there weren't.

There was general agreement to this and TC said that yes, role descriptions could be created.

ACTION: committee to develop role descriptions for committee positions.

Ian Hewitt raised a question about what the committee does, and so what being on the committee would involve.

ALB explained that organizing the annual British Branch meeting is the committee's main priority but other things arise on a more ad hoc basis. For example, finding a UK rep to IUGG.

MM explained that if IGS head office is asked to represent the community at UK/British level activities then they pass it onto British Branch for action.

It was suggested that we could make more of our role, for example by contributing to IACS.

The discussion closed with the suggestion that this be discussed further at the next AGM with a proposal for a new process for the election of officers circulated in advance.

ACTION: committee to develop a proposal for the democratic election of officers.

6 IGS Head Office Report

MM presented the report from head office. IGS activity (e.g. forthcoming symposia) is detailed on the IGS website and colleagues are referred there for details. We are now planning for symposia in

2027. The IGS publications (Journal of Glaciology and Annals of Glaciology) will go completely online from 2024. This means that both publications will run continuously as an annual volume rather than individual issues per year. It will be able to ask the editorial committee to set up a thematic issues – e.g. a sea ice collection. The secretariat are back in the BAS office technically but MM is primarily working from home. MM is planning to retire in the next few years, there will be a search committee set up to find a replacement and then the replacement can decide whether to keep the BAS office. TC thanked MM on behalf of the branch for all of his hard work so far.

7 Future meetings

Candidate locations for the British Branch meeting in 2024 are Newcastle, Oxford, Leeds (Sally) and Liverpool (Connor). Since Oxford is in the South of the UK it was considered to be a better candidate for 2025 (given that we have had the 2023 meeting in Cardiff). The committee will take a discussion offline with Newcastle, Leeds and Liverpool about 2024.

8 AOB