

# British Branch Meeting 2020

7–9 October 2020

The IGS British Branch (BB) meeting was successfully held over 7–9 Oct 2020 via video-conference, becoming the first BB meeting to be held entirely online! Undeterred by the restrictions imposed by the covid-19 pandemic, the organizing committee worked to retrain the friendly and comfortable atmosphere of the BB meeting into the virtual environment. The Zoom rooms and hallways were navigated by 80 attendees at a time, with 211 individuals registering for the meeting in total. Awareness of

the presented work, shared through 25 talks and 13 posters, was amplified more widely through dedicated tweets (#IGSB2020).

The John Glen prizes for best oral and poster presentations were respectively awarded to Katarzyna Warburton and Joshua R. Leigh. Poster presenters described their work to small groups in thematic break-out rooms, which provided ample opportunity for group discussion.

Further discussion and networking opportunities were delivered in the form of a 'speed-dating'

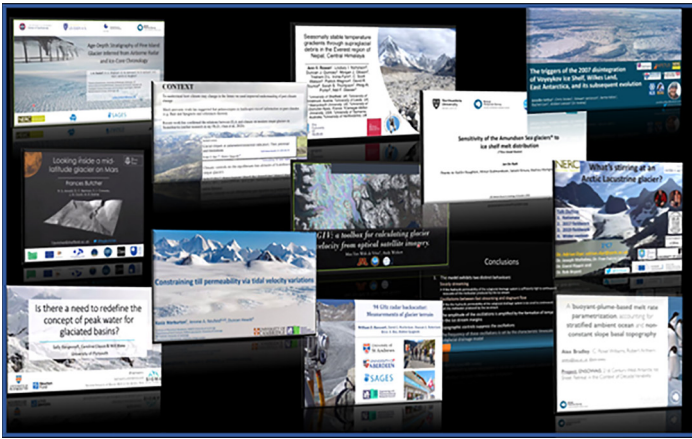


A small selection of the speakers during the meeting.

A variety of presentations from the BB meeting (part 1).



The organizing committee for IGS BB 2020 (Anna Crawford, Helen Ockenden, Rob Bingham, Rebecca McCerery, Magnús Már Magnússon, Rebecca Schlegel).



A variety of presentations from the BB meeting (part 2).

John Glen prize for  
best oral presentation

Katarzyna Warburton



Ed King (now retired, but used to work for the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge) talking about his early days in the field.

John Glen prize for  
best poster presentation

Joshua R. Leigh



The John Glen prize for best oral presentation went to Katarzyna Warburton from the University of Cambridge, and for best poster presentation to Joshua R. Leigh from Durham University.

event, which was so popular that an additional speed-date during the meeting needed to be scheduled! This format was subsequently used for early-career researcher networking at the Nordic Branch meeting a few weeks later.

The early career student (ECS) community had a strong presence at the BB meeting, with eight talks and five presentations by students and multiple ECSs co-facilitating sessions.

A guest presentation by an esteemed senior scientist, Ed King, was a great highlight of the meeting. Ed spoke about four significant changes to polar research (the impact of the Falklands War; the advent of GPS; the building of the Rothera runway; and the evolution of field-to-home communication). Ed's talk gave the audience a feeling for what Antarctica was like during his first field-work seasons and how communication abilities have evolved over the decades.

Thanks go out to Ed, the speakers and presenters, the organizing committee, and all of the participants for making this virtual British Branch meeting so effective and enjoyable.

**Rebecca Schlegel**  
**Anna Crawford**