



British Association for Crystal Growth

Registered Charity No. 261780

BACG AGM meeting

30th June 2026 17:15

In person, BACG Annual Meeting 2026, Manchester

Minutes

Prof. Kevin Roberts Chaired the Meeting, which was quorate. General welcome and thanks to the conference organizer and the BACG committee for their work.

1. Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 2nd July 2025 17:15 during the BACG Annual Meeting at Leeds University, were proposed by Elena Simone and accepted by Grahame Woolam.
2. Matters arising. There were no matters arising.
3. Grahame Woolame, presented the Chair's report below.

The British Association for Crystal Growth (BACG) remains in a healthy and positive position. Over the past year, the Association has continued to strengthen its activities, expand engagement with the crystallisation community, and build momentum following the focus on standalone annual meetings.

A particular highlight has been the success of BACG 2025 in Leeds, which delivered a net surplus and provided a solid foundation for continued investment in member activities, travel grants, training courses and conference development. We extend our congratulations and thanks to Tariq Mahmud and the Leeds Organising Committee for delivering an excellent meeting.

BACG's core mission remains unchanged: to promote national and international scientific and technological exchange in crystal growth, crystallisation and crystal evaluation. The committee remains committed to ensuring that the Association continues to evolve while maintaining the strong scientific foundations that have defined BACG for over five decades.

Membership and Community Growth

Membership engagement has been a major focus during the last year. Through our partnership with Delegant, we have begun implementing a more structured approach to membership management and community engagement. Current membership stands at 28 members, comprising 6 full members, 5 lifetime members and 17 student members. Student membership therefore now represents more than half of our active membership base, reflecting the strong engagement of early career researchers within the Association.

The transition to Delegant has also enabled progress towards a modernised membership system and improvements to member services. Work has commenced on website redevelopment, membership management processes and improved financial oversight. Encouragingly, 46 attendees at BACG 2026 indicated that they would like to become BACG members, including 31 students and 15 non-student delegates. These prospective

members represent a broad international community spanning the UK, Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia, demonstrating the continued international appeal of BACG.

Support for Early Career Researchers

Supporting early career researchers remains central to BACG's mission.

Demand for travel support increased significantly during 2026 and, in response, BACG expanded its support through the award of three travel grants for students attending BACG 2026. This represents an increase from previous years and reflects our commitment to ensuring that talented early career scientists can participate in the community regardless of financial constraints.

BACG also continued its support of educational and training initiatives, including sponsorship of the Leeds Crystallisation Course, and Durham Crystal Symposium helping strengthen the pipeline of future crystallisation scientists and engineers.

BACG 2026: Manchester

BACG 2026 marks the Association's third consecutive standalone annual meeting and represents another important milestone in strengthening the identity and visibility of BACG.

The meeting has attracted excellent participation, with 92 registered delegates attending the main conference sessions, 51 delegates participating in the Early Career Researcher Day, 83 attendees joining networking events and 63 attending the conference dinner.

The scientific programme reflects the breadth of modern crystallisation science, spanning fundamental studies of nucleation and crystal growth through to pharmaceutical development, advanced manufacturing, digital technologies and emerging applications of machine learning and artificial intelligence.

The committee thanks Ashwin Rajagopalan, the local organising team, Delegant and all sponsors for their commitment and support in delivering this year's meeting. Their efforts have created a programme that combines scientific excellence with valuable opportunities for networking and collaboration.

Communications and Outreach

BACG's LinkedIn presence has continued to grow significantly and is now our most effective communication channel.

The Association currently has 979 LinkedIn followers and generated almost 59,000 post impressions over the last twelve months, with more than 34,000 impressions in the last 90 days alone with nearly 20,000 in the last 30 days. Conference promotions, speaker announcements and award recognition posts have generated strong engagement and have helped extend the visibility of BACG beyond its traditional membership base.

Treasurer report from Zarrin Ansari:

British Association for Crystal Growth		
Charity no. 261780		
Receipts & Payments Account		
For April 2025 - March 2026		
	2024/2025	2025/2026
Receipts		
Sponsorship	£ -	£ -
Membership Subscriptions	£ 391.00	£ 883.00
Conference	£ -	£ 4,738.29
Account Interest	£ 0.08	£ -
Other	£ -	£ -
Total	£ 391.08	£ 5,621.29
Payments		
Sponsorship/Grants	£ 500.00	£ 1,340.21
Website/Software Costs	£ -	£ 3,004.20
Conference	£ 570.00	£ 3,130.00
Committee Expenses	£ 725.55	£ -
Administration	£ 612.27	£ 2,491.91
Other	£ -	£ 48.21
Total	£ 2,407.82	£ 10,014.53
Net Receipts for the year	-£ 2,016.74	-£ 4,393.24
	2024	2025
Cash Funds - 1st Apr	£ 63,324.74	£ 61,308.00
	2025	2026
Cash Funds - 31st Mar	£ 61,308.00	£ 55,604.57
Breakdown of Cash Funds:	31/03/2025	31/03/2026
Natwest Current Account	£ 35,608.75	£ 28,024.42
Natwest Business Reserve Account	£ -	£ 0.08
National Savings Bank - Savings Account	£ 25,699.25	£ 25,699.25
Paypal	£ -	£ 126.41
Stripe	£ -	£ 1,754.41
Closing Balance Total	£ 61,308.00	£ 55,604.57

Net profit from BACG 2025 meeting, Zarrin congratulates to Tariq and the local organizers.

The major point to notice is the increase in expenditure, mostly related to Delegant's services. The new website is now connected to the membership payments and it will be easier to check membership status and due payments for renewal.

The society has supported the 2026 Annual meeting with 3 travel grants.

The society has also supported the Leeds Crystallization Course and the Durham symposium organized by Prof. Aurora Cruz Cabeza.

Given the healthy financial situation the BACG members discuss possible other initiatives that could be supported to benefit members. Kevin suggests to sponsor and advertise other initiatives in the area of crystallization.

As the income from membership is still too low it is important to organize activities for the members. Katharina Edkins suggests to generate automated emails to remind members to renew their membership. Aniruddha Majumder suggests to have in the members' area online a section with membership details.

Mentoring is discussed as a possible service to offer our early career members. Jan Sefcik specifies that the mentorship should be career related rather than technical. Kevin proposed to ask retired BACG members if they would like to participate in the initiative as potential mentors.

Student committee update (Isha Bade, Luca Sironi)

Good attendance of the ECR day, the committee worked well in preparing the programme and the event was well attended. Panel discussion and anonymized Q&A that was very useful. The live transcript was considered useful and worked well. The next ECR day could include some of the activities discussed in the EDIA session, for example the scientific speed dating (to be scheduled before the welcome reception on the first day).

Briefing from Industrial session

None of the industrial members who proposed the problem last year were present. The chair will meet them ask to provide feedback and possible actions by email, which will be shared with the other members via the newsletter.

Briefing from EDIA session

The session was well attended and several suggestions were made on the padlet portal.

Karen briefly summarize the main points and actions that the committee could take:

Guidelines for presenters: It was requested that we put in guidelines for those who are presenting which covers accessibility

Colorblind friendly slides. This is something that we could give them a colourblind friendly palette

Space for transcription. We had a two line real time transcription at the bottom of the screen which was very well received by many in attendance and we strongly recommend keeping this going forwards. We will however need to tell the presenters to have blank space at the bottom of the slides which would cover this as many presenters lost a portion of their slides to this.

Acronyms. Due to the cross-disciplinary nature of the conference it was noted by many that they would like fewer acronyms. We can request that the presenters consider reducing this and ensure they are defined in the first slide use, even if they are very common in their field.

Slide overcrowding. We should ask the presenters to not overcrowd their slides, especially noted with graph heavy presentations.

Introduction to speaker slide. One slide for the speaker to introduce who they are outside of their research / work to provide a bit of human background and again make it possibly more comfortable for people to approach them. This would obviously have to be voluntary.

Preferred pro-nouns. This is also something which can be on the conference badges.

Fundamentals workshop:

At the beginning of the conference it was requested to have a fundamentals workshop which covers the basic fundamentals someone needs to understand the breadth of

what will be presented from the chemistry side including crystal engineering concepts to the chemical engineering side e.g. PBM/PBE, similar to the ISIC conference. There were two suggestions given, one was to use the morning of the ECR day for this and the second was to have it online before the conference. We also discussed this as a summer school and the promotion of the summer schools which currently exist e.g. Leeds, European Federation of Chemical Engineering, Erice, Granada.

Research speed dating event:

It was requested and well received to have a session which would help those who feel nervous approaching people to have a 'research speed dating event'. This would be probably random assignment of 'couples' (if they get someone they know, they need to pick another number) and conversations of recommended 5 mins for a total of 30+ mins for the event. Obviously as conference organisers we would leave this up to you to arrange details. This would be an ice breaker before the welcome reception.

Anonymised Q&A:

Have a system where questions can be posted anonymously for the speakers. This would be particularly useful for those who don't feel comfortable in asking their question out loud / putting their hand up, or forget what they want to ask by the question section. Q&A sessions also for the workshop online (but not recorded)

Member's area of the website

This will be populated over time with:
Tutorial videos
Career mentoring scheme
A link for volunteering for being in the ECR committee.

Events calendar

All relevant events including related conferences like ISIC and summer schools. We'll need to work with you on what events to add
Highlight here that travel and attendance awards can be applied for in the members area.

Young Scientist Award

Winner and link to paper with abstract and presenter bio and photo

Newsletter

Links to previous and current newsletters and a mechanism for people to submit items
This could potentially be in the member's only area.

Committee update (Elena)

We have nominated a new chair, secretary and treasurer. These are Karen Robertson, Huaiyu Yang and Cameron Brown. The president and their predecessor congratulate with them.
In 2026 four positions will expire in the committee. We are looking for new members, who needs nomination from two existing committee members. Elena encourage people to contact us in case interested in joining.

Any other business:

Jan Sefcik proposes to discuss initiatives to engage undergraduates in the society, based on feedback from the EDIA session. Outreach related to crystallization is already organized locally but the society could do a bit more, perhaps working with industry. Challenges (with a prize) related to crystallization and proposed by industrial members could be organized for UG students in the UK. Matteo suggests to shape these similarly to the UCL scenarios. This approach works if crystallization is in the curriculum, otherwise we might need to organize a series of preparatory lectures as part of the challenge.

Richard Cooper informs the members that the British Crystallographic Association will bid to organize the 2038 IuCr conference in the UK. BACG could join in the bid to strengthen the case.

Katharina Edkins informs the members of an expected cut in the STFC funding, which will affect many BACG members that work with large UK facilities (Diamond Light Source, ISIS, CLF). The cuts will probably reduce the support for users and hence the quality of the science that could arise. Kathi emphasizes that it will be important to engage with the STFC by participating in the webinar and information sessions that will be promoted in the next couple weeks. Details will be shared via the BACG newsletter to all members.

Kevin Roberts provides an update on the BACG archive. We finally found a place to store them. If members have material related to BACG that should be preserved they can contact directly the BACG president.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be at the BACG 2027, Annual meeting, which will be held in Manchester.

Elena Simone
Secretary
30th June 2026