



BACG

British Association for Crystal Growth

Registered Charity No. 261780

BACG AGM meeting

2nd July 2024 18:30

In person, BACG Annual Meeting 2024, Loughborough

AGENDA

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| 1. Welcome from the president | Sally |
| 2. Organization introduction (committees, membership benefits) | Grahame |
| 3. Finance update | Zarrin |
| 4. Membership update | Petros |
| 5. Student committee update | Frank |
| 6. Committee members and future opening/nomination procedure | Elena |
| 7. Questions/Feedback from members | |

Elena Simone

Secretary

26th June 2024



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BACG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 6th September 2023 6pm
during the ISIC2023 /BACG Annual Meeting University of Strathclyde

Minutes

Prof. Sally Price Chaired the Meeting, which was quorate. She noted that the work of the committee is important in determining the direction and activity of the organisation.

1. Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 28th June 2022 5pm during the 2022 Virtual Annual Meeting held on the Eventee platform via Zoom, were proposed by Zarrin Ansari and accepted by Kevin Roberts
2. Matters arising. There were no matters arising.
3. Nicholas Blagden, presented the Chair's report below.
 - Being vice chair and then chair for the past five years has been a pleasure. What an exciting time for the nation and BACG in that time. The committee has been blessed with a wealth of talent, expertise, and age range and has improved the gender balance.
 - I cannot thank this committee team enough for their efforts during my time as chair. We should give a big clap of appreciation to these individual efforts over these years as we have not been able to meet in-person with the roles and duties they have undertaken for the BACG.
 - The BACG has remained true to its founding brief, particularly the promotion of crystal growth in the broadest sense, and environment in the annual meetings to support the next generation of crystal scientists.
 - With the connectivity innovation, the journey will continue with a membership-led series of workshops, so we need ideas and the annual meeting.
 - We support the invited lecture, early career scientist, crystals in art and lifetime achievement awards, and these need yearly nominations and submissions.
 - This will be more accessible with the development of our web presence in the coming year.
 - Confirm EDI will continue to be factored into everything the BACG stands for, and we need to be vigilant and pro-active with our efforts in this regard.
 - To continue this vision, please consider the need for new members and consider thinking about joining the committee.

- We need to find a venue for next year's meeting, so suggestions and volunteer to be a local organising committee please get in touch.
- We have a series of reports for the AGM for the members to digest and reflect upon.
- My highlight as chair is that we kept momentum over years of COVID and did not make much of a loss.
- Thank You !

The Chair thanked Nick for keeping the meeting going over the pandemic and wished him good luck in his retirement.

4. Zarrin Ansari presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Ghazala Sadiq
 - The balance in the BACG accounts is in the region of £25K
 - We will be updating the BACG account to Natwest bank line which is a committee bank account and better suited for the BACG - what we currently have is a business account.
 - removing previous committee members from the account and adding Grahame / Elena / Zarrin is in process.
 - Petros is exploring taking online payments from the website for membership etc
 - Membership and fees is no longer being managed by HG3 so need to find a way to continue to take payments
 - No student travel grant applications have been received.
 - BACG has sponsored some speakers for this current meeting
 - The main expenses have been for committee members, sponsoring prizes posters, crystals in art and the YSA
 - We have funds in the NSI. This is an investment account but a paper only account. It takes about 2-4 weeks to make a withdrawal and we need to move to a better interest account and one that is easily managed

5. **Petros Neoptolemou** presented the Membership Secretary's report on behalf of Rachel Sullivan.

There are 80-90 members., with 5-10 new members registered in the last year. It has been difficult to register new members without the services of HG3. Cheaper ways are being looked into and something will be implemented soon. HG£ have been very expensive so we aim to improve and simplify with automated payments. We will synchronise with mailing list as the membership ebbs and flows.

The website is still under development but will be finished soon.

6. Election of Officers

The Chair thanked the retiring officers:

- Nicholas Blagden, *Chair*, to be replaced by Grahame Woollam
- Ghazala Sadiq, *Treasurer*, to be replaced by Zarrin Ansari
- Linda Seton, *Secretary*, to be replaced by Elena Simone
- Matteo Salvalaglio
- Rachel Sullivan

The Chair thanked Matteo for organising BACG50, which was the last in person meeting, and Rachel Sullivan for her efforts in increasing membership. It was acknowledged that the committee had done a lot at a difficult time and a time of

evolution. Jan was the local organiser for the BACG/ ISIC2023 meeting and he and Joop had begun planning this when Joop was chair, anticipating a meeting in 2020. Simon Lawrence as the Irish rep brings an important connection to our Irish members.

Roger Davey noted that the association wishes to acknowledge the long-standing contribution of Ghazala and Linda and record thanks for their time on the committee.

There are five vacancies for new committee members, and therefore the committee will hold an election of members. The election will be held on-line to allow all members to vote. There are 9 candidates. Each will prepare a short statement on their candidacy which will be made available to members in advance of the vote.

7. Nicholas Blagden noted the new Lifetime Achievement Award and that there will be one recipient this year to be announced at the conference dinner [Roger Davey was awarded the first Lifetime Achievement Award].

Nominations are open for next year, and we hope other deserving members will receive this award in the future. Details of the terms and process of nomination are on the BACG webpages.

8. The incoming Chair, Graham Woollam announced that the BACG Annual Meeting 2024 will be a standalone in person meeting and might be an opportunity for new committee members to host. Suggestions for potential locations and scientific themes were welcomed.

A discussion followed on the nature of events to be held by the association. Since Covid, the nature of scientific meetings has changed, with on-line and hybrid meetings more common. The attendees discussed the possibilities of holding Crystals in Art as an on-line competition across the year, perhaps on social media. Other suggestions included a “Grand Challenge” where we set a theme and allow people to put forward views and suggestions. This could then include ECRs and industry as well as academics. It was felt that this could be an opportunity to open dialogue across the community and discuss the direction of the organisation. It was noted that in industry, crystallisation is no longer an automatic choice for purity. It was felt that smaller on-line meetings in addition to the annual meeting would be useful.

Veterans also have a lot to offer in terms of sharing expertise and this could be included in an on-line offering.

Educational approaches were also discussed, we could offer training courses similar to the one held in Italy triennially. The Leeds industrial course could be offered to students, or perhaps a number of places could be funded by the BACG.

9. Any other business. There was no further business to discuss

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be at the BACG 2024, Annual meeting, Date and location to be announced.

Linda Seton
Former Secretary
30th June 2024

