

Kings College London Engineers Association

Minutes of AGM Held on 5 December 2024

by Zoom

Those Present on Zoom

Peter Weitzel (President) Chris Bowden (Hon Sec) John Thomson (Hon Treasurer and website.)

David Blacoe, Graham Raven, Mike Clode, Keith Newton, Stylii Charalampous, James Aston, Stephan Jefferis, Michael Jefferies, Eadward Cater, William Shepherd, Tim Griffiths

1) Apologies for absence/ Minutes of the 2023 AGM*/ Matters arising

Apologies for Absence

Liz Beckmann, Chris Bowden, Bobby Dixit ,Norman Borrett

Minutes of the meeting 16 November 2023

These were accepted as being accurate and with no matters arising

2) President's report on past year *

The Presidents report had been posted on the website - and Peter Weitzel outlined the key points

He had come in with the mission of serving members - and this is bringing the changes needed to keep KCLEA alive and relevant

In the past Year We had to cancel the KCLEA lecture as the logistics of Speaker and room availability confounded both KCLEA and the Alumni office.

However the Annual lunch was very successfully held, and we welcomed Prof Chris Lorenz the Incoming Head of the Department of Engineering.

We have increased communication with members by introducing news letters about every 6 weeks and are still needed contributions , John Thomson has tidied the website but sadly Bobby Dixit has been unwell and thus our social media output has rather lapsed

As part of “serving members” the new “Find out about Kings (FOAK) ” event was held in the Quad labs but was not well attended – which was strange as many have said that they would like to see the marvellous facilities. We have the Lecture on Entrepreneurship in Medtech planned to be at LIHE and the Annual Lunch on 15 June 2025.

In activities we are linking with KCLES and WiSTEM – and have a very good relationship and will be doing some joint meetings/ speed dating!

For membership Peter said he is trying to get to find lapsed members and grow the Linked in Presence as KCLEA is its members

David Blacoe commented on the energy that had been deployed by Peter Weitzel to revive KCLEA in its links with the student and staff at Kings and the importance of Linking with the Students.

3) Accounts, including the Trustees' report.

John Thomson (Hon treasurer) introduced the Account which were available on the website

The Current

The top level figures were

Income	£3875	(2023 £3928)
Expenditure	£1412	(2023 £2550)
Surplus	£2463	(2023 £1398)

These are detailed in the Income and expenditure account – the major difference was that the Lunch had a considerably lower subsidy in 2024.

Mike Clode (Trustee) covered the investment and performance

Assets

Fixed	£61188	(2023 £58143)
Current	£10364	(2023 £7901)
Total	£71552	(2023 £66044)

There are no liabilities

The Increase in assets is that a new batch of 50 medals has been purchased.

Revaluation of the 13 Club trophy - it was explained that there was no real purpose in doing so but this needs looking at for insurance etc. Action President /Hon treasurer

The meeting thanks David Sheridan for Examining the accounts.

There was a question of the Public Liability – this is covered by the Alumni Office / College – but Peter Weitzel is investigating in this as KCLEA look to move to Different status to best Practice. Action President

Mike gave a Presentation (on the website) about the Various Funds held by KCLEA

At simplest There are the Investment Fund (was known as Life fund)
– the Daily Fund which pays for the running of KCLEA and the KCLEA Bursary Fund held and run by the College. He showed the good performance of the Investment fund

There was discussion on Bursaries and the amount that should be used - currently we offer Two Bursaries of £1000 each.

He highlighted matters which needs attention

- The application of the M&G dividends currently into the daily account
- Tax position -Peter comments is part of the Legal status of KCLEA
- Review of Bursary matters - As a result of last committee this is under discussion
- The Financial future of KCLEA as Donations decline we are dependent on Investment income

David Blacoe talks about what KCL offers in other Bursaries about £1500 - and Graham Raven pointed out that in time past KCLEA used to contribute to one Bursary.

Bill Shepherd suggested using the £4k surplus to increase the Bursary and Keith Newton reminded us that we needed to keep an eye on how it treats our funds

4) To Note Student Bursaries and Medals

The KCLEA academic medals for 2024 have been awarded to

Ali Ahmad Razaei for the Department of Engineering award

Maariyah Rashid for the Biomedical Engineering award.

These medals were presented at the KCL Prizegiving event on 27th November.

Six applications for the [KCLEA 2024 undergraduate bursaries](#) have been evaluated by a panel of both academic and committee judges, who have been impressed by the quality of this year's submissions. The committee has awarded two bursaries of £1000 each to

Anna Julia Morais-Schwarz in 2nd year Biomedical Engineering

Jean Anselm Dela Cuesta in 2nd year General Engineering.

All Four winners have been invited to the Annual Lunch

so we can congratulate them personally and find out what they are doing now!

5) Nominations and Election for Officers and Committee members

Peter Weitzel introduced this topic by saying that we were losing three key members

- Graham Raven – who as President Lobbied so many – including the Principal.... And has kept Engineering's voice in KCLA and given wise counsel in the committee
- Mike Clode as Editor Bulletin (& last member on Div of Engineering) he continues as a Trustee
- Bobby Dixit – who established our Social Media accounts – and despite illness and other demands on his time kept the Events running – overcoming all sort of obstacles

And we lose Chris Bowden as Hon sec who has produced the agendas and Minute to our meetings ... but He stays as a VP....

He said he was very pleased that two predecessors as President are staying on the committee so KCLEA retain their input in what we are doing

– David Blacoe as a VP (like Chris Bowden)

- Liz Beckmann as Past President

& that John Thomson remains our Treasurer and Webmaster

And to welcome nomination of Stylli Charalampous as Hon Sec and Dr Ernest Okon as Liaison Office looking after the Student activities . But otherwise there were none notified or nominated offered at the meeting for the other Roles

The election was held – all were unanimously voted in

A) President Peter Weitzel Nominated David Blacoe Mike Clode

B) Vice Presidents Chris Bowden & David Blacoe Nominated Peter Weitzel Graham Raven

C) Officers Group 1 Nominated Peter Weitzel Mike Clode

Hon Secretary Stylli Charalampous

Hon Treasurer John Thomson

Hon Events Sec VACANCY

Hon Editor VACANCY

D) Officers Group 2 Nominated Peter Weitzel David Blacoe

Hon Webmaster John Thomson
Hon Membership Sec VACANCY
Hon Liaison officer Dr Ernest Okon

E) Trustees Nominated David Blacoe Keith Newton

Mike Clode, Chris Bowden, John Thomson, Graham Raven

F) Accounts examiner Nominated John Thomson Mike Clode

David Sheriden

Liz Beckmann remains on the Committee as the Past President

The Two new members of the committee instructs themselves
Stylli Charalampous has had a career in tertiary education and since 2017 has been Senior Programme manager Further and Higher Education at the Royal Academy of Engineering .

Peter Weitzel said that Dr Ernest Okon was a Ph.D Student just over 25 years ago and is now a Senior research engineer in Microwaves at Thales. He has been associated with the Success for Black Engineers and attends the annual lunch – and attended the Find out about Kings event

6) The 13 Club Trophy

Peter Weitzel stated the aims of the award to those who “have made significant achievements in their professional or personal life, have raised the profile of King’s Engineering or have given significant service to King’s Engineering or the KCL Engineers’ Association.”

He was very pleased that it had been decided that it should be awarded to **Liz Beckmann (1971-74)** who has Pioneer of CAT Scans and many forms of Medical Imaging, been the Managing Director of a range of companies and is still working - she was President of the British Institute of Radiology from 1993-94 still organises many International Conferences on Radiology and Imaging and is Co-author of the book "Godfrey Hounsfield: intuitive genius of CT"

President of KCLEA (twice) and long serving committee member

7) Discussion and Adoption of updated constitution *

Peter Weitzel outlined the reasons for needing to amend as outlined on the website – and bring the Constitution up to date –

- To reflect the changes in the academic structure of the college
- how KCLA was developing with a new focus in its own right and not as an umbrella organization for alumni Associations.
- There was also a need to stop KCLEA becoming a Zombie association, and a very few minor points.

The intention was to do the minimum required as there was a larger activity needed rewrite the constitution to reflect how KCLEA will work in the future and its legal status.

He sought agreement to the changes against each of the key issues

1. Setting KCLEA up in its own right because of the changes in KCLA – which got rid of association being Branches, KCLEA has to stand on its own with its own Aims - he said that these were based on those of KCLA as he had shown at the Annual lunch – and thus continues the tradition of “ being close to the Aims of KCLA”

The amendments were agreed by all

2. Aligning to current academic structures - Peter Weitzel said this was just to bring the names of the departments/School up to date

The amendments were agreed by all

3. Other minor changes

The amendments were agreed by all

4. Changes in dissolution requirements Peter Weitzel said that as it was only the members who had subscribed to KCLEA in the days many years ago when it was a subscription based society could vote to wind it up – and then only if we knew their postal address – which we don't!
This the amendment was to make all members of KCLEA have a vote and to omit a postal voting . In discussion the amendment was amended to change the words “Life Subscription fund” was changed to “Investment fund” throughout the document and membership words in Section 3 and 11 unified.

With these amendments the changes were agreed

5. Peter Weitzel then sought the meeting agreement to the entire constitution as amended.

This was agreed by all

8) President -KCLEA's Future

Peter Weitzel introduced his slide pack which is on the website

And then showed a few slides which he had shared at Annual lunch

Outlining the fact we had about 2K member who the Alumni Office knew the emails address of and 4 K that they did not and that KCLEA will be trying to reconnect with – this has come about because the AO has only a single consent – you either agree get all their emailing (including KCELA) or none. Under KCL Privacy at the moment KCELA does not know who its members are – but he is working with the AO to sort this out.

Using the 2Ks the quartiles in the distribution are (as one might expect) 1994, 2008, 2016.

He recapped the plan of action and showed a draft outline of how the Association may operate

With executives on Marcom, Events and Members being supported by leaders in or example the newsletter editor, or the producer of an event or membership recruitment – all of which are to support and achieve our purpose as an Association for our members, And also the one may be two undertaking Activities where members can assist students and academics, plus the usuals President hon sec and hon treasurer.

Thus the Committee may be 8 executives plus about the same number of none- executive (but eager helpers) being the Past President, some vice presidents and ordinary members.

He emphasized that this was still work in progress – if only that as noted in the election there are no executives on any of the Membership facing operations

Peter Weitzel then outlined what had happened – there were three items which could have thrown the changes off course ...

- The Urgent need to make the constitution match the KCL and KCLA reality – he thanked the meeting for agreeing this .
- How close KCLEA wanted to be to KCL - there are few Alumni Association – most are rather distant from KCL. But talk in the committee of disassociation from KCL was after vigorous debate thrown out.... It is also note worth the KCLEA is the only Alumni Association That bridges Two faculties (plus KCLA which encompasses all) This make KCLEA unique as well as being the oldest Alumni Association at KCL.
- And finally, that committee members decided to retire after many years of hard work.

He then moved onto looking at two of the portfolios Communication with the newly launched Newsletter, Linked in which is being launched as the main communication and networking channel the bulletin as the journal of record and the website as the repository of all that is KCLEA

And Membership where the aims are to find out who each of our members are , Reconnecting with those lost (and existing staff) , and recruiting new members as the membership System are revised.

These outward looking things are being implemented as KCLEA find out where it fist in the complex arrangements of KCL and its students and alumni bodies.

And to form new operating models which can be incorporated in a new Constitution following current best practice -, including legal status which limits liability.

Befree opening the discussion he pointed out that events are very much in person and that limits the ways of networking which is why the Use of Linked in and may be presenting by You tube will serve members better and KCLEA was about keeping in touch in good ..or not so good time.

He posed some thoughts on what KCLEA is doing and what it may do, and it is meeting member needs....??

In discussion the importance of saying the benefits of KCLEA and the range of the experience of its members was emphasized. There was also mention of recruiting from the Department of Informatics and linking to recruit the students as they graduate.

9) AOB

There was no other business. The meeting was closed

Peter Weitzel thanked all, particularly for the discussion around finances/ Bursaries and reminded all that most documents were or will be on the website.

<https://www.kclea.org.uk/index/agm2024.html>