Kings College London Engineers Association

Minutes of AGM Held on 2 December 2025

At 1800 GMT by Zoom

Those Present on Zoom

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

David Blacoe, Graham Raven, Dr Mike Clode, Keith Newton, William Shepherd, Gina Lupu Florian, Francis Ijeh, Keith Newton, Dr Ernest Okon

The Agenda Report and presentations are available at
https://www.kclea.org.uk/events/agm2025.html

1) Apologies for absence/ Minutes of the 2024 AGM*/ Matters arising

Apologies for Absence

Liz Beckmann, Chris Bowden, Bobby Dixit ,

Minutes of the meeting 6 December 2024

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 which are also in the meeting slide set also on the website.

He started by pointing out that although there had been some action there were not enough Committee members to make the organisation operate but he had filled in across all the portfolios but there is still a lot of catch up to be done.

Successes were the news letter which is regularly about every six weeks, and the creation of a Group on Kings Connect while with Events the Annual lecture a very good presentation By Nitya Dintakurti and Prof Jha preceded by a tour of LIHE and meeting some of the companies based there , and then a Reception on a very pleasant July evening overlooking the House of Lords with some very good conversation with Engineers and other Alums.

The Annual lunch was a success with Members of all ages and selected students as we tied it perfectly to see and be under the fly past! But it would have been good to see more younger members

The Other achievement was the work that Keith Newton has done to find our members via Linked in. This has been very useful as we know a little bit more about them, and what they do, and their achievements, and perhaps even how they can help us, which is has been done together with Kings Connect, to makes approaches to try to find new committee members.

Dr Ernest Okon has been doing great work with the Student bodies most notably with the "Speed dating with a Twist" organized by KCLES and WiSTEM in the Quad labs in February. But also more information meetings with the Student from KCLES WiSTEM KCL Electronics etc on Prof Kawal Rhodes General Class room on Wednesday afternoons – Dr Okon just needs more volunteers to help us out and network with each other and the students.

Peter said he has been working with many parts of the Alumni office – Talking about the possibilities for the new Student Hub in the SW Wing Bush house and trying to get some recognition for Sir Ivison Macadam – who gave his name to the Student Union building 50 years ago at the South East corner of the main site. But also with a lot of the more routine matters and looking at Mentoring and similar initiatives to see how KCLEA can do their part in Kings Edge. He said that there are a lot of things happening – but they need coordination .

Things that have started but needs more attention – Linked in – that has begun to reform so we can be in touch with and share stories from Members across the world and subject to your Vote for a MARCOM Executive, that Gina and Wolfpack Media will take it over and really revitalize with Regular posting and get more KCLEA members engaged and posting their Stories and interests,
The Find out about Kings Event - Its run for 2 years, and he said that it hasn't really got the membership taking part. So perhaps need to look at that, but the idea of having a networking event where we talk about what the college is doing is very important, because so many Alums remember King's on the year that they graduated, not what it is like now.

There were many other items from the slide but it was pointed out that there is currently talk about doubling the size of engineering at King's, in the next 3 or 4 years, and the harmonisation of the first year between Department of Engineering and BMEIS Students these are key matters that surely KCLEA as an Alumni Association should be involved in – just as with Kings Edge.

KCLEA has no idea who it has as members -so we cannot see who may have dropped off the list – and there is not a list of those who have been recruited - So more work is needed trying to persuade the Alumni Office to let us have a look at the list, and let us work with them, because it could very well be that some of the 600 or so that Keith Newton has found on Linked in are not on the alumni list.
Looking at those that Keith has found there is the great wealth of experience that they have, and some good stories. So, it would be good to get a new form of the bulletin running so that al KCLEA members and others can see what other Alums have been doing to change the world.

The future requires a new, younger and active committee and leaders to reliably deliver the Networking events, Communications and all that is required to build a thriving Community.

Peter Weitzel thanked the existing committee for their work in the year as Stylli Charalampous the new Hon sec had to resign due to illness and pressure of work, But his contribution to shaping KCLEA organization should be noted.
He also thanked Alex Groves and the others in the Alumni office. .

His final point was that "**KCLEA is a Group of Alums not a division of Alumni"**

David Blacoe spoke thanking Peter for his great efforts and mentioning the links that Peter had been developing with BMEIS – there are a vast number of enthusiastic Engineering students there. Peter said that it was not just him but also Liz Beckmann who had better links with the medical Imaging Industries, But Engineering on the Strand site was very very different from what any of us studied, - and with students on Strand and Guys/ST Thomas' drawn from across the world - giving KCLEA an international responsibility.

3) **Finance Reports**

Dr Mike Clode gave a combined presentation with John Thomson which, with other documents , was available on the website

There are three accounts –

- The Current (bank) account administered by the Hon Treasurer

And then two investment funds

- The Investment fund administered by the Trustees
- The Bursary Fund – Administered by Kings College but over seen by the Trustees

The Current Account

The top level figures were

Income	£ 3,891	(2024 £ 3,875)
Expenditure	£ 333	(2024 £ 1,412)
Surplus	£ 3,558	(2024 £ 2,463)

These are detailed in the Income and expenditure account

There were no expenditure for any events as the refreshments at events and Student activities and subsidy for the Lunch were paid for outside KCLEA .

There were no questions on the Treasurers report

Dr Clode presented the Trustee report on behalf of himself and the other Trustees Chris Bowden, Graham Raven and John Thomson

The Investment Fund (formerly known as the Life Subscription Fund)

M&G Dividend Fund (£ 0.5692 per share) £ 50,364.78

Nationwide Business account: £ 12,926.68

TOTAL (30th June 2025) £ 63,291.46

Interest payments

Total dividend received during financial year = £2, 954.99 (3.3396 p/unit)

A total of £272.48 interest was credited to the (new) Nationwide Business Account on 31st March 2025

The tax position seems to be that HMRC are not too interested and a recent due diligence activity with Nationwide had no issues.

The Bursary Fund - Administered by the King's College London Alumni Charitable Trust

The KCLEA Bursary Fund's Market value was £64,675 as at 31st July 2025. The comparable figure for 2024 was £62,694.

The investment income received was £2,161. (£2,155 for 2024).
Expenditure from the Bursary Fund was £2,000 for 2024/25 KCLEA Bursary awards.

The Income Account Balance is £4,931. (£4,770 for 2023/24)

The return on the Fund's Market value at the start of the financial year was 3.45%

There had been discussion on increasing the number of Bursaries to three as with income of about £2k a year and a surplus of around £5k it could be afforded (or topped up)

He closed by highlighting the Trustees Next year's tasks.

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There was discussion during and after the Presentation which focused on these three tasks

Keith Newton enquired if any M&G units had been purchased – none had been Mike said that he calculated the return being 6.1% - but it probably was appropriate to review the Large amount in the Nationwide account and buy further M&G stock and the Nationwide does not have as good a return.

Keith also referred to the historical issue when the College had changed the investment in the Bursary fund without consulting KCLEA and thus such issues need to be watched. Mike said that he was and that's he was wanting to find out more about how they invest because even conservatively , 3.45% is not a good return. David Blacoe also queries that we do not know the basis on which we derive income from the Bursary Fund. Keith pointed out that as the college dealt with any tax liability – which may be a good reason why it would not be beneficial for KCLEA to take the Fund under their control.

Peter Weitzel said that he would accompany Mike to the College Admin HQ to get some answers on this and also to ensure that we get the figures promptly when we asked unlike this year when they almost did not make the AGM .

Dr Mike Clode observed that KCLEA needed to find out where it fits into the College etc – but that was being done very well by the Committee. Peter Weitzel added that he was trying to get an ontology of where the various bits of the AO, the College Central functions, the faculties and their Academic ,professional services and the student societies all fitted together with what KCLEA does - its is far from simple – and he was not certain anyone knew - !!!

Peter Weitzel thanked John Thomson and Dr Mike Clode for their work during the year particularly as the College were very late in providing figures – and to David Sheridan who examined the Accounts very Promptly

5) Medals and Bursaries

The KCLEA academic medals for 2025 have been awarded to

- Jun Zhang for the Department of Engineering award
- Jack Pritchard for the Biomedical Engineering award.

These medals were presented at the KCL Prizegiving event

Six (24 six) valid applications for the KCLEA 2025 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. Sadly there were no entries from the Department of Engineering

The committee has awarded 3 bursaries of £1000 each an Increase from 2 Bursaries of £1000 last year.

- Elyab Berhanu in in 2nd year Biomedical Engineering
- Hei (Harriet) Chung in 2nd year Biomedical Engineering
- Alexis Kusikwenyu in 2nd year Biomedical Engineering

All winners have been invited to the Annual Lunch so we can congratulate them personally

Action has already been taken to try and find a way of ensuring that Engineering students were encouraged to apply – and to look at the processes around the bursary systems including the Charge code accessed by the students.

6 Constitution changes

Peter Weitzel introduced this by pointing out the changes made at the 2024 AGM

- To establish KCLEA in its own right – as KCLA had long ago removed the Place for Alumni Associations in their structure so KCLEA had to define its Aims.
- To Open membership to students from BMEIS and the new Department of Engineering, As up to then KCLA has had no new members since 2013, and to include those KCELA knew about but were not on the AO list- the results of these changes may very well be about a thousand new members – but as we do not know who is on the AO list we cannot tell how many of the 600 members Keith has found are duplicated as with currently over 400 Engineering Graduates a year...
- To enable KCLEA to be wound up – he observed that prior to this KCLEA would die out eventually but could not ever end!

This years proposed Changes move the Officer model to the Officer, Executive and Leader (Portfolio) model which was reported at the 2024 AGM – with a few refinements in the past year – mostly by discussion with Stylii Charalampous, and to align the committee to best practice by moving towards the Cadbury structure for companies and setting duration for roles.

There had been some email correspondence immediately before the meeting about these changes – including questioning the need for having this structure and directions set.
Thus he would try to take care to explain things, as there seems to be some confusion.

A constitution is laid out for everyone to see an organisation as it should be, its aims and how it is organised to meet them.

As mentioned at the 2024 AGM there may be further amendment proposed in particular to set the status of KCLEA (may be company limited by guarantee) and few other minor items.
On the whole the aim is a focused minimal change last and this year

There would be a single Vote taken in in three linked votes

- To agree the governance changes
- To adopt the Portfolio (Officer Executive Leader) structure with their Length of service
- To agree transitional arrangements so there is not an abrupt change

The quorum of the meeting was checked and the meeting was found to be quorate.

<u>Taking the Governance changes</u> In detail these are

- Change from “Officer” to “Officers and Executives” to reflect changes in operating model. This make the Officers more obvious target if action is taken against KCLEA – and thus implies a lower liability for the Executives -
- Make the Vice Presidents and Past President non-executive to clearly show intent to meet Cadbury Requirements . This is self-explanatory – and the responsibility for 13 Club Trophy is removed from the ordinary members and vested in the senior Vice President.
- Remove KCLES from the running of KCLEA . It is extremely bad practise for a voluntary organization to be governed other than by its members – and in any case since 2014 at least KCLES is not exclusively for Engineering students In any case there are about half a dozen Engineering related Student societies that KCLEA deals with.

- Sets length of service - all Roles are “Broadly Comparable” in term of full on work thus to balance permanence and encouraging new blood through limiting the duration.. For far too many years the committee has not tried to attract new Committee members – and thus has not had new ideas and energy, and as most of the committee having given long service are of ages which are far from typical of the membership at large. Hence to setting the duration of service in any one role indicates to likely nominees the commitment likely to be required and to also ensure that there is a turnover of Committee members whilst retaining some experience,.
  There is no limit on Leaders length of service.
  There is also a clause to enable a committee member to resign and to ensure that on giving up a role KCLEA retains assets and authorities to computer systems
- Seek Committee to represent a wider range of Membership – As an International Society of alums with a range of ages, degree subjects and jobs and industries the committee should have a wide representation.

Concern was expressed that this was making things to complex – and that this may put members off from standing. Peter pointed out that to the clear description of what was required and to give an clear indication of the length of service of the role made it easier for members to know what they would be doing and for how long - we had 4 members putting themselves forward this year – so it may be working, This structure with leaders has headroom for more to be involved, as it would need to with a possibility of many hundreds of new members per year, the Executive /Leader Portfolio structure was expandable without constitutional change which the previous officer structure was not – and in any case had some very strange cross duties and unbalanced workloads. KCLEA was not a small association – it had many thousands members – even though they are not known !

A vote was taken with all in favour except Keith Newton who abstained as he had not had time to consider the proposal. .

<u>The Portfolios and detail roles</u>

Peter introduced this as being the formal words taking what was shown and discussed at the 2024 AGM – to have Three officers then 5 executives covering Marcoms, Events & Membership all serving the members and then to support (student) Activities and Liaison with KCL.

These were given scopes which put the bullet points, (which could be allocated to a leader or done by the executive) into a sentence – like newsletter, LinkedIn, bulletin, website . The aim was to match portfolios to deliverables and functional areas, & to give similar workloads/ Leader team interaction – and not be prescriptive as to exactly who does what at Leader level.

The length of service was set to give people time to get into the job and then time to develop and carry out any changes – noting that the office is taken up with half the year already planned for many of the roles. It also forces new blood to be put into roles – and also to enable executives to change roles. The Officer roles had a longer length of service to give a bit more stability with then a gap of 5 year as a officer – but they could be a Executive or leader immediately

The Ordinary members have 3 Plus 3 year pattern again for stability – with a similar 4 year gap – but the could be executive or officer, and the executives serve 2 Year plus one year times two with a 3 year gap but they can take another executive role. There is nothing to prevent any retiring Officer or Executive being a ordinary member – but this may not be ideal.
Basically there are roles for more members to be involved in the running of KCLEA as leaders – so work is shared out – and to progress into Executive roles.

So actually, if somebody wanted to donate a lot of their time for almost forever, there is nothing there that stops them doing it. It's just that they have to change role if not a leader , which gives the opportunity to get more new people in to get them involved in the operation of KCLEA.

The fixed terms give a clarity and opportunity for new blood that the existing one-year rolling contract basis does not.

He covered each Role

- The President – basically defines the role as the senior Officer of KCLEA , leading and representing KCLEA in all fora.
- The Hon treasurer – the same role as currently
- The Hon sec - has the basic Minutes taking role as previously but lose all event communication and adds efficient operation and **explicitly** being responsible for the Constitution -

Looking at the portfolios -

The three directed towards the Membership

- MARCOMS – newsletter, LinkedIn, bulletin, website
- Events – Outlining what an event is and its purpose and mention KCLEA and Other events/lectures and **explicitly** organise a Lunch.
- Membership - maintain list ,provide dashboards, recruitment and contact with individual Alums

Focus on enabling members to engage with students

- Activities – Liaison with the student societies (but not organise anything) , and some work with the Academic and with Bursaries etc,

Focus on KCLEA engaging with other entities

- Liaison - Liaison with Academic, Professional services Staff and the Alumni Office and with related Alumni or Professional bodies in addition to the activities of others!

And then the leaders and helpers are not defined by the Constitution, they're set by the executives and agreed by the committee.
To sum up a great degree of flexibility in how KCLEA operates with only prescribing AGM and accounts (out of the scope of these amendments) and having the Lunch and Constitution responsibility added.

There was some more discussion during which it was clarified that there are no changes to the Trustees or the ability to have subcommittees with non-members. Generally, there seemed to be a feeling that it used a lot more words but gave clarity and perhaps greater flexibility.

In so far as there are more new committee members nominated to fill these roles it does seem to have improved the recruitment of committee members. It was pointed out that we needed more members from the bulk of our membership – but as we don't know who they are -other than by Keith's good work – but it is very likely that well over half graduated in the past 20 years .

A check was done on quorum – and debate as to what to do if there was not a quorum and after some checking on Zoom it was re-established that the meeting was still quorate .

A vote was taken with all in favour except Keith Newton who abstained as he had not had time to consider the proposal. .

Transitional arrangements

Peter said these simply made that the current president would serve one year and current Hon Treasurer two years before Retiring – The detail on the ordinary members can we sorted out by the committee as he was expecting more nominations having contacted over 10 people mostly with Voluntary organisation experience but they have not replied!

A vote was taken with all in favour except Keith Newton who abstained

Thus the constitution of KCLEA was amended

7) Nominations

Peter Weitzel read the list and gave brief description of their backgrounds and with 4 new members only one is over 35 year old!

President Peter Weitzel
Hon Treasurer John Thomson

Hon Secretary VACANCY

Executives
MARCOMS Geogina Lupa Florian (new)
Events George Obada (new)
Membership VACANCY
Activities Dr Ernest Okon
Liaison VACANCY

Vice Presidents Chris Bowden & David Blacoe

Ordinary members Dr John Zubrzycki (new) , Afrin Basit (new) VACANCY*4
Past President Liz Beckmann

Trustees Dr Mike Clode Chris Bowden, Graham Raven and John Thomson
Account examiner David Sheridan

As time was short the **vote was taken to elect all those nominated it was carried with no objections or abstentions.**

8) 13 Club Trophy

This is something that is really KCLEAs one and greatest award, for the alum who have made significant achievements in their professional and personal life, have raised the profile of King's Engineering, and have given significant service to King's Engineering, or KCLEA
Peter announced that this year the Trophy is awarded to Keith Newton for his resolute and persistent search for KCLEA members on LinkedIn, and providing brief biographies so that KCLEA knows its members better, and can keep in touch.

Keith was surprised and embarrassed by the award and said that was the third time that he has won it – from being part of the Victoria Street Group and individually in 2005 and 2010. He explained the history of the Award and how its intent was to find groups of Members who had a major achievements in the past year (or so).

Peter commented that he would like to see the KCLEA community so active that there would be group doing great things known to all so that the Trophy could be awarded to them.

David Blacoe pointed out that we are now in a digital world where the ability to socialize together physically is so much more restricted. So many of our alumni are around the world, about a quarter of Keiths list, spread around everywhere, but Keiths ability to act as a link and get those sorts of contacts is what's so vital.

Peter Weitzel added that he wanted to thank Keith for helping to set up Mentoring and Liaison with KCLES some 50 years ago!

9) AOB

Mike Clode said that there was of students who graduated 20 years ago – and should KCLEA be involved. Peter said that it be and he will get the New Events Executive to get in touch.

There was no other AOB

Peter in closing the meeting pointed out the two events detailed on
https://www.kclea.org.uk/events.html

Friday 20 March – Annual lecture given by Joanna Streeten who runs the Project management function in AECOM covering 4500 staff in UK Europe and India.

Saturday 13 June the Annual Lunch – this is on the Kings official birthday

– but as the date changed, he and Alex in the AO did some very speedy work with Kings Venues to get the booking moved.

He thanked all for their attendance and continued support of KCLEA .

Meeting ended at 1925
Minutes agreed for publication at Committee meeting 6 January 2026